Men-at-Arms

OSPREY PUBLISHING

Armies of the Great Northern War 1700–1720

Gabriele Esposito • Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3
- The anti-Swedish coalition – Sweden's allies

CHRONOLOGY 7

THE RUSSIAN ARMY 8
- The infantry before Peter the Great: the *Streltsi* – the 'foreign' infantry – from 'toy army' to Imperial Guard – the new line infantry – garrison and security troops
- The 'noble' cavalry – dragoons – light cavalry – artillery

THE SWEDISH ARMY 14
- 'Enlisted' and 'provincial' regiments – extended conscription
- The Life Guard on Foot – the line infantry
- The cavalry: the Horse Guard – the line cavalry – 'noble flag' units, 'priest dragoons' and miscellaneous
- The artillery – militia

THE SAXON ARMY 20
- Infantry – cavalry – artillery – militia – wartime changes – 'exotica'

THE POLISH & LITHUANIAN ARMIES 23
- 'National' and 'foreign' contingents – Polish army – Lithuanian army – Royal Guard – private armies

THE DANISH & NORWEGIAN ARMIES 33
- The Danish army: infantry – cavalry and dragoons – artillery
- The Norwegian army: 'active' and 'reserve' conscription – wartime changes

THE HANOVERIAN ARMY 37
- Hanover-Calenburg – Lunenburg-Celle – amalgamated army, from 1705

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY 38
- The army of Frederick I – the army of Frederick William I

THE HOLSTEIN ARMY 40

COSSACKS, TATARS & DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES 41
- Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate – Crimean Tatar Khanate – Moldavia and Wallachia

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 43

PLATE COMMENTARIES 43

INDEX 48

Men-at-Arms • 529

Armies of the Great Northern War 1700–1720

Gabriele Esposito • Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava
Series editor Martin Windrow

ARMIES OF THE GREAT NORTHERN WAR 1700–1720

INTRODUCTION

More or less simultaneous with the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–14) between France and an alliance of Britain with the Holy Roman (Austrian) Empire, which ravaged parts of western, central and southern Europe, the Great Northern War was the most important conflict ever fought in the Baltic region. While it involved a number of armies, on battlefields stretching from Norway to southern Ukraine, its essential importance was that it led to both the destruction of the empire acquired by Sweden since the Thirty Years' War (1618–48), and the transformation of Russia, under Tsar Peter the Great (r. 1682–1725), from a minor player in European affairs into a great power, dominating the Baltic region and with an open 'window to the West'.

When the conflict began in 1700, Sweden was itself a great power both by sea and land, rich from Baltic commerce and controlling much of northern Europe. In addition to Finland, traditionally a dominion of the Swedish crown, Sweden's empire included Karelia (the border region between Finland and Russia); Ingria (the coastal region of Russia on the Gulf of Finland, where St Petersburg would be founded during the course of the war); Estonia; Livonia (roughly, modern Latvia); and several areas on the northern coast of Germany – Western Pomerania, Wismar, and the Duchy of Bremen and Verden. These wide possessions were difficult to defend simultaneously, and after many decades of successes the dawn of the 18th century confronted the Swedes with both a new Russian threat and a coalition

A reconstructed portrait of Peter the Great by Paul Delaroche (1838); the tsar wears his habitual dark-green uniform faced with red, and a pale-blue watered-silk riband. Peter nominally succeeded to the throne aged ten in 1682, as joint ruler with his sickly half-brother Ivan, but spent his childhood under a regency exercised first by a half-sister and later by his mother. During his teenage years he created and experimented with a miniature Western-style 'toy army', but it was only at the age of 24 in 1696, after the deaths of his mother and Ivan, that he achieved independent power. He then instituted his ruthless programme to introduce and enforce Western norms in many areas of Russian life. Among other reforms, his rapid transformation of Russia's military and naval forces was unparalleled.

of old enemies. Under the dynamic leadership of the young King Charles XII (r. 1697–1718), Swedish armies would achieve many brilliant victories, and at times came close to complete success. However, in the end several disastrous defeats, the drain on manpower and national resources, and Charles's death in battle obliged the Swedes to come to terms. Practically all of their territories outside Scandinavia were then occupied by Sweden's enemies, relegating the kingdom to the status of a secondary power thereafter.

The anti-Swedish coalition

The military alliances headed by Russia included, first of all, the Kingdom of Denmark-Norway, ruled by Charles XII's first cousin Frederick IV of Denmark (r. 1699–1730). Denmark had fought two wars with Sweden in 1657–60 and 1675–79; many disputes remained unsettled, and in 1700 the Danes were ready to side with Russia against their traditional foe.

After Russia, Sweden's most important enemy was a union of Saxony and Poland-Lithuania, both ruled since 1697 by the same monarch: Augustus II 'the Strong' of Saxony (r. Saxony 1694–1733). The Electorate of Saxony was one of the most militarily powerful German states, but would later come to depend upon Russia for money, military supplies and allied troops. In 1697 the ambitious Augustus secured his election as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania in addition to his Saxon realm. At this date Poland and Lithuania were a 'commonwealth' of two nations each with its own institutions and army, but both were politically weakened by the resistance of powerful aristocracies to any attempt to curb their privileges. Augustus's ambition to establish a hereditary monarchy over Poland-Lithuania aggravated this instability, and although these territories would be major theatres of the Great Northern War their own military contributions would be limited.

Finally, the alliance was completed by two German polities each eager to gain territories from Sweden: Brandenburg-Prussia, and Hanover. Prussia was still a minor power at that time, formally a vassal state of Poland. In 1701 Frederick I Hohenzollern (grandfather of Frederick the Great) secured its elevation from a duchy into a kingdom thanks to alliances with the Holy Roman Empire and Poland. The military reforms that were made during the Great Northern War by his son Frederick William I transformed the Prussian army into one of the best in Europe, which fought both in the Baltic area and in the War of the Spanish Succession.

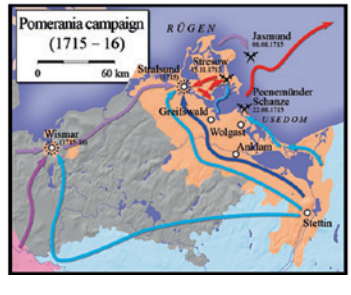
At the outbreak of the Great Northern War, Hanover did not exist as a state: the region included the duchies of both Hanover-Calenberg and Lunenburg-Celle, ruled by two related families. In 1705 these were united to form the single Duchy of Hanover, and in 1708, in return for support to the Empire, this was transformed into an electorate. In 1714, as the senior Protestant relative of Queen Anne, its ruler would also become King George I of Great Britain after her death. (Britain would at different times intervene on both sides in the Great Northern War, but for most of this period was fully committed against France in the War of the Spanish Succession.)

Sweden's allies

King Charles XII did have a few allies of his own. The first was the small north German Duchy of Holstein-Gottorp, located just south of the Danish border. This was formally a vassal of the Danish crown, but was ruled by another first cousin of Charles XII, who would prove his loyal ally.

From 1708 Sweden would also become allied with the Ukrainian Cossacks, whose pseudo-state was known as the 'Cossack Hetmanate' or 'Zaporozhian Host'. Enjoying independence since 1649 after long struggles against the Poles, the Cossacks were later threatened by Russian expansion, particularly after the ascendancy of Peter the Great. Consequently their Hetman or leader, Ivan Mazepa, chose to side with the invading Swedes in 1708.

Finally, Sweden would be briefly allied during 1710–14 with the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Turks also feared Russian expansion towards their Balkan possessions – the semi-autonomous principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, which covered most of modern Romania.



Maps showing the main campaigns and battles of the Great Northern War. (Original maps by Wikimedia user 'S. Bollmann', modified by Gabriele Esposito, CC BY-SA 3.0. Links to original maps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Great_Northern_War_Part1.png, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Great_Northern_War_Part2.png)

CHRONOLOGY

(We have attempted to give all dates according to the Gregorian or 'new style' calendar.)

1699:
22 November Peter the Great of Russia, Frederick IV of Denmark and Augustus II of Saxony and Poland sign Treaty of Preobrazhenskoe, to attack and partition the Swedish empire.

1700:
February Saxon army invades Swedish Livonia and besieges Riga, largest city in the Swedish empire.
March–April Invading Holstein-Gottorp, Danish army besieges Tönning on west coast south-west of Schleswig.
20–26 July In absence of most Danish troops, Swedish fleet lands army near Danish capital, Copenhagen, and (with temporary Dutch and British naval allies) bombards the city.
August–September Peter the Great with 40,000 Russian troops invades Swedish Ingria, to secure outlet to Baltic Sea.
18 August Denmark is forced to conclude Peace of Travendal, leaving the anti-Swedish coalition.
4 October Russian army besieges Narva.
6 October Charles XII lands Swedish army in Livonia, and advances against Russians.
30 November First battle of Narva: in Peter's absence, surprise attack by 10,000 Swedes routs 37,000 Russians under Saxon general Charles de Croy.

1701:
19 July Charles XII's 6,500 Swedes defeat 13,000 Saxons and raise siege of Riga.

1702:
9 January Peter the Great defeats smaller force led by Swedish general Wolmar von Schlippenbach at Erastfer – first Russian victory.
14 May Swedish army occupies undefended Warsaw.
19 July With 12,000 men, Charles XII defeats 24,000 Saxons and Poles at Kliszów.
7–22 October Russians besiege and take Swedish fortress at Nöteborg (Schlisselburg) in Ingria.

1703:
21 April Charles XII's approx. 3,000 Swedish cavalry rout 3,500 Saxon-Polish horse led by Adam von Stenau at Pułtusk.
1 May Russians capture Swedish fort of Nyen on site of future St Petersburg; it is quickly replaced with stronger Russian fortress, and another is planted at Kronstadt.
(Repeated Swedish counterattacks in Ingria during **1704–08** will all be unsuccessful.)

1704:
February Augustus II is deposed from the throne of Poland-Lithuania.
July He is replaced with Sweden's client Stanisław Leszczyński; civil war breaks out between pro-Swedish and pro-Saxon nobility.
5 August Swedish general Adam Lewenhaupt with 5,000 men defeats 15,000 Lithuanians and Russians under Hetman Wiśniowiecki at Jakobstadt (absent from map – *c.* 125km SE of Riga).
9 August Peter the Great recaptures Narva, and massacres Swedish population.

1705:
26 July Supporting Saxony, Boris Sheremetiev's 13,000 Russians are defeated at Gemäuerthof by Lewenhaupt with 7,500 Swedish troops.

1706:
13 February Swedish general Carl Rehnskjold with 10,000 men wins decisive victory at Fraustadt over Johann von der Schulenburg with 20,000 Saxons.
24 September Augustus II of Saxony is forced to agree Peace of Altranstadt, renouncing both his claim to the Polish crown and alliance with Russia.
29 October Russian general Alexander Menshivov defeats smaller Swedish force under Col Mardefelt at Kalisc, Poland.

1707:
August–December Charles XII outmanoeuvres Menshikov in Poland while Peter the Great is distracted by 'Bulavin Rebellion' of Don Cossacks (begins October).

1708:
January Charles XII leads *c.* 44,000 men from Poland into Russian territory.
14 July Swedish victory at Holowczyn against divided Russian forces under Sheremetiev and Repnin. Thereafter, Swedish army diverted south into Ukraine by Russian 'scorched-earth' tactics and prospect of alliance with rebel Cossacks. Charles orders Lewenhaupt to join him from Riga with reinforcements and supplies.
9–10 October Half of Lewenhaupt's force and entire supply convoy is destroyed at Lesnaya; Swedish army thereafter suffers badly during very harsh winter, being reduced to *c.* 20,000.

1709:
May Swedish army besieges Poltava; Peter the Great leads *c.* 80,000 troops into southern Ukraine.
28 June Revival of anti-Swedish coalition begins with Treaty of Dresden between Denmark and Saxony.
28 July Russians inflict crushing defeat on Swedish army at Poltava – the most decisive battle of the war – and its remnants soon surrender. With small surviving force Charles XII seeks refuge over border of neutral Ottoman Empire, encamping at Bender in Moldavia.
(**August–December** Russian reoccupation of Poland; Augustus II of Saxony restored to throne as Peter the Great's client.)
9 October Treaty of Thorn between Russia and Saxony.
22 October Treaty of Copenhagen between Russia and Denmark.

1710:
10 March Danish general Jørgen Rantzau, invading southern Sweden with 14,000 men, is defeated at Helsingborg (*c.* 50km NE of Copenhagen) by Swedish general Magnus Stenbock with similar numbers.
12 June Vyborg falls to Russian siege.
3 July Treaty of Hanover between Russia and Hanover.
15 July Russians recapture Riga.
(Virulent outbreak of plague among retreating Swedish troops spreads to Sweden, Finland and Denmark by **1713**, causing huge loss of life.)
29 September Capitulation of Tallinn marks final loss of Sweden's Baltic provinces to Russia. War will continue in north Germany, and (intermittently) in Finland.

1711:
July Angered by Turkish refusal to evict Charles XII from Moldavia, Peter the Great invades Ottoman territory, marching south down the Pruth river towards the Danube.
18–22 July Peter's army is surrounded and defeated by the Ottomans at Stănilestí, and he is obliged to make international concessions in order to secure release.
August Danish and Saxon forces besiege Stralsund in Swedish Pomerania.
25 September Swedish relief force under Stenbock lands nearby, forcing coalition army to retreat.

1712:
August Russian admiral Fyodor Apraksin leads army from Vyborg into Finland; Swedish general Georg Lybecker withdraws north; supply problems soon oblige Apraksin to retreat in his turn.
20 December With 12,000 men, Stenbock wins Sweden's last significant victory, over a 17,000-strong Danish-Saxon army led by Frederick IV and Jacob von Flemming, at Gadebusch near Wismar in Pomerania.

1713:
May Apraksin lands Russian forces at Helsingfors (Helsinki) and elsewhere on Finland's south coast, forcing Swedes under Lybecker and Carl Armfeldt to retreat north.
16 May Following fall of Tönning in Holstein (**7 Feb**), Stenbock's trapped Swedish army surrenders.
October Armfeldt attempts to stand at Pälkäne, Finland, but is forced to resume retreat.

1714:
2 March Final Russian victory over Armfeldt's small force of mostly local troops at Napue, Finland.
May–July Naval manoeuvres and clashes between Russian and Swedish warships and galleys off Finnish coast.
27 July Russian victory in galley battle near Cape Hangöudd breaks Swedish blockade.
28 October Treaty of Greifswald between George I of Britain and Peter the Great.
11 November Frustrated in his attempts to foment all-out war between Ottoman Empire and Russia, Charles XII returns from exile to lead defence of Stralsund and to direct Swedish war effort, refusing all peace negotiations.

1715:
17 May Treaty concluded with Denmark brings Brandenburg-Prussia into anti-Swedish coalition.
23 December Fall of Stralsund, only days after Charles XII makes his escape.

1716:
February–July Charles XII attacks Danish forces in Norway, but is forced to withdraw for lack of siege guns and by guerrilla and scorched-earth tactics.
19 April Fall of Wismar, last Swedish stronghold in Germany.

1717:
Peter the Great is distracted by unrest in Poland-Lithuania between rebel nobility and Augustus II.

1718:
September Charles XII again invades Norway, now with stronger artillery, and besieges major fortress of Fredriksten.
12 December Charles is shot dead in siege trench at Fredriksten. Childless, he is briefly succeeded by his sister, Ulrika Eleonora, before the throne passes to his brother-in-law Frederick I of Hesse-Cassel. Exploiting naval strength, Russian fleets carry out repeated and damaging raids and landings on Swedish coasts, until discouraged by naval setback at Grengam in July 1720. Meanwhile, all the European powers engage in complex diplomacy over the spoils of Sweden's lost empire.

1721:
10 September The final Treaty of Nystad between Sweden and Russia ends hostilities, leaving all parties to the coalition with at least some gains; Denmark, Hanover and Prussia all acquire more German territory. Sweden is still a viable (though impoverished) kingdom, but Russia is now unchallengeable as the dominant Baltic power.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY

When Peter the Great became sole ruler of Russia in 1696 the country was still feudal, introverted and ultra-conservative, with even its merchant class showing limited interest in the outside world. Militarily it lagged far behind contemporary European armies, since Russia's enormous natural resources and population had never been harnessed for such purposes. The poor regarded military service as an imposition, while

the aristocracy showed no interest in military or naval careers. It is a tribute to Peter's extraordinary vision, energy and ruthless determination that, with his eyes constantly turned to the West, he would achieve revolutionary improvements which bore fruit in less than 15 years. At 'first Narva' in 1700 his still unready army was completely routed by Charles XII's Swedish troops; by Poltava in 1709, Peter had so reorganized and professionalized it that he was able to crush them, to the astonishment of Europe.

Knötel drawing of troop types of Peter the Great's army, from left to right: grenadier of line infantry (compare with Plate A2); two dismounted dragoons in campaign dress (see A3); mounted dragoon of a white-coated regiment (see B2); and bombardier of artillery regiment (see B3, but here with striped ticking stockings).

The infantry before Peter the Great: the *Streltsi*

At the time of Peter's accession basically four categories of troops were available to Russian monarchs: the infantry of the *Streltsi* ('musketeers'); the small 'foreign' infantry; the heavy cavalry provided by the nobility; and, at longer notice, irregular light cavalry raised among the Cossack frontier communities.[1]

The Streltsi, formed by Ivan the Terrible in *c.* 1550, were the major component showing some elements of regularity. They were organized in regiments (*polki*), divided into 'hundreds' (*sotni*) and 'tens' (*desyatki*), and were relatively well equipped; a distinctive feature was the use of poleaxes or *bardiches*, both as close-combat weapons and as rests for matchlock muskets. The regiments were raised regionally, the units from Moscow being known as 'elective Streltsi' while those from other cities were 'municipal Streltsi'. The regiments stationed in Moscow had mixed functions, acting as police and firefighters as well as an elite 'Praetorian Guard'. In time, like their Roman predecessors, they acquired so much political power that they might impose their will on monarchs.

With the passage of time service in the Streltsi had become lifelong and hereditary, thus creating a distinct caste within Russian society, which had reached perhaps 55,000 strong by 1681. Since they were often paid only with land-grants, they became 'soldier-farmers' living in separate communities, and often following parallel civilian trades. The Streltsi naturally resisted any reforms that threatened their corrupt privileges, and consequently they stood in the way of Peter's ambition to create a modern, regulated infantry. At that time there were 22 regiments, of which 16 were stationed in Moscow and three each in Novgorod and Pskov. Initially Peter transferred eight Moscow units to Belgorod, Sevsk and Kiev; this unpopular measure led to the 'Streltsi Revolt' of

1 'Available to monarchs' is a meaningful distinction. Experiments in raising Western-style units of paid troops had first begun in the 1630s, but had not lasted long. From 1649 permanent conscripted frontier-defence regiments were created, and about 40 of these existed by 1681, garrisoning distant frontier towns and forming field forces when required. Russia's complex 17th-century military history is described in MAA 427, *Armies of Ivan the Terrible: Russian Troops 1505–1700*.

Russian officer of the Preobrazhenskoe Guard Regiment; the standard infantry company had a captain, a lieutenant and an ensign. The officers' black tricorne is edged with gold lace and clipped white-and-red feathers. The coat is green, laced gold down the front (as is the waistcoat worn under it), with gold-edged red cuffs; obscured by the white-and-red diagonal sash are 'dagged' gold-edged horizontal pocket flaps apparently with three buttons, which were also repeated on the waistcoat. The breeches are green and the stockings red, the gorget gilded brass, the gloves white, the belt buff with gold edging, and the partizan has a gold tassel. Officers' privately purchased uniforms naturally showed a fair degree of variation in details.

1698, which ended in total defeat. All the Moscow regiments were then disbanded, while those of the 'municipal Streltsi' were gradually absorbed as cores around which raw recruits would form Peter's new Westernized infantry regiments.

The 'foreign' infantry

This category was the result of a failed general reform attempted by Peter's father, Tsar Alexis. 'Foreign' referred not to their nationality, but to that tsar's ambitious plan to modernize 63 regiments along 'foreign' lines. Although he raised 80,000 conscripts, his plan soon failed due to political and practical difficulties. Peter would inherit only two regiments, commanded by actual foreigners: the 1st Moscovski Regt led by the Swiss-born Huguenot Francis Lefort, and the Butyrski Regt led by a Catholic Scot, Patrick Gordon. These each had 1,200 men in eight 150-man companies.

From 'toy army' to Imperial Guard

However, Peter already had another solid base upon which to create a new army. In 1682 the ten-year-old prince was installed at the royal lodge of Preobrazhenskoe, and there he would gradually form a miniature 'toy army' (*poteshnyi*, literally 'amusement force'), by means of which he learned and practised the arts of war. Initially it was a single company manned by children, servants and court retainers, but it imitated modern European organization, discipline, uniforms, equipment and training. By 1685 it was 300 strong at Preobrazhenskoe; it was later increased to 600, with a second company stationed at the nearby village of Semyonovskoe. The introduction of foreign military instructors steadily improved its standards, and the above-mentioned Patrick Gordon became its commander.

On 25 April 1695, shortly before assuming absolute rule, Peter was ready to transform his 'amusement' into a real military asset: significantly enlarged with new recruits, the companies became the Preobrazhenskoe and Semyonovskoe Regiments (respectively, the 1st and 2nd Regts of the new Imperial Guard). In 1698 they played a key role in suppressing the Streltsi Revolt, and they soon formed the core of Peter's new Westernized infantry. Originally each regiment had 12 companies each of 100 men, divided into three four-company battalions. In 1700 the Preobrazhenskoe Regt was increased to four battalions; it also had an additional 'bombardier' company with 6 mortars and 4 field guns. In 1704 a grenadier company was added to both regiments. Initially most of the regimental officers were the former foreign advisors to the *poteshnyi*, while many of the new rankers were young noblemen receiving military instruction in these corps before becoming officers themselves.

The new line infantry

In November 1699 a proclamation published throughout Russia called for volunteers to form a new national army, whose infantry regiments were to be organized on the model of the new Guard. All peasants enlisting would be freed from their condition of serfdom; this attracted thousands of volunteers, but these were still insufficient. Peter's consequent order for the conscription of a small proportion of the serfs in all Russian territories brought a mass of potential soldiers to the main base at Preobrazhenskoe during the early months of 1700. Some 32,000 recruits were assigned to the infantry and organized into 27 regiments, assembled into three large divisions. The great demand for foreign officers brought in many Germans, often Saxons, whose quality was very variable. The infantry's only-partial training and complete inexperience contributed to the disaster at Narva in November 1700, but thereafter the new army had several years to improve its skills and discipline while acquiring battlefield experience on secondary fronts. In 1704–06 Peter lent one of his divisions to Augustus II of Saxony to fight against Charles XII, and although this campaign also ended in defeat the tsar continued to forge an ever-improving military machine.

Russian line infantry fusilier of the mid-war period. In 1700 each company had 1 sergeant, 4 corporals, 84 fusiliers plus 18 pikemen. Uniform: black tricorne with white edging; black neck cloth; green coat with red cuffs and buttonholes, green breeches, red stockings, buff leather belts. Puzzlingly, this drawing seems to show braid 'lace' at the top of the cuffs, which was normally the distinction of the sergeant, who was officially armed with a halberd instead of this musket equipment. The fusiliers' original sword-like plug bayonets were not fully replaced with socket bayonets and separate swords until about 1709. Peter the Great imported many Dutch and English 'dog-locks' and also 'French-lock' flintlocks to replace earlier matchlocks and snaphaunces in his expanding army, but by 1706 Russian armouries were turning out some 30,000 flintlocks per year. There was no standardization, even within a regiment.

Between 1701 and 1708 the infantry was expanded from 27 regiments to 56, plus 5 regiments formed entirely from grenadier companies. The new regiments resembled but were not identical to the 'foreign' 1st Moscow and Butyrski Regiments. Those formed in 1699–1700 had two battalions each with five companies of roughly 100 men, though 4 of the 27 regiments had three battalions. A section of two 3-pdr guns was attached to each regiment. In 1704 distinctions were introduced between the companies in each battalion, designating one company as grenadiers and four as fusiliers, but in 1708 the grenadier companies of all except two regiments were detached to form the 5 independent grenadier regiments. During the same year all the infantry regiments started to be known by the names of their home provinces or towns rather than of their colonels. In 1716 the last significant organizational change saw the Preobrazhenskoe Guard Regt reduced to three battalions, while of the larger line regiments only the

Russian trooper of the Smolenski Dragoon Regiment, one of at least two units (another was the senior Moskovski Regt) to wear white coats, in this case with blue facings – see Plate B2. The waistcoat and breeches were brown. One source also lists the Smolenski Dragoons as wearing a white *kartuz* with red flaps.

Dismounted NCO and trooper of the Astrakhanski Dragoons on parade. This regiment wore reversed colours to the Smolenski Regiment – a blue coat with white facings. An order of 1712 prescribed for each ten-company regiment a colonel, two senior officers, 22 junior officers, 10 ensigns, 40 sergeants, 60 corporals, 11 drummers, 2 trumpeters and 900 troopers, plus non-combatant specialists and drivers.

Ingermanlandski retained its third battalion. (See MAA 260, *Peter the Great's Army (1): Infantry* for tables of units, including uniform colours, and a list of those present at Poltava.)

Garrison and security troops

From 1712 new garrison regiments began to be formed specifically to be stationed in the newly conquered Baltic territories, some being built around men from disbanded line units. These new regiments were also used as internal security troops, especially against Cossack revolts. In total, 39 such units were formed; in addition to the infantry, there were also 2 regiments and one squadron of garrison dragoons. By 1716 the garrison infantry had been expanded by a further 10 regiments and one battalion, and the garrison dragoons by an additional 4 regiments and one squadron. For garrisoning Ukraine after the defeat of the Cossack Hetmanate, Peter ordered the creation of a separate militia: on 2 February 1713 this Ukrainian Land Militia was organized in 6 ten-company infantry regiments, all raised from free non-Cossack yeomen.

The 'noble' cavalry

This heavy cavalry had been provided by the metropolitan and provincial nobility, who were rich enough to buy their own equipment and mounts; in practice, however, their quality was patchy, since they lacked both modern training and weapons. Peter the Great had no time to 'Westernize' the cavalry before the Narva campaign of 1700, for which he assembled some 10,000 horsemen. In the feudal manner, each nobleman was usually accompanied by a certain number of armed and mounted retainers. The richest aristocrats generally paid replacements to serve in their stead, but the metropolitan nobles from Moscow were considered to be an elite among these contingents. Traditionally the heavy cavalry was structured in three divisions: one from Moscow, one from Smolensk (assembling the nobility of central Russia), and one from Novgorod (those of northern Russia).

Dragoons

Even before his 'noble' cavalry abandoned the field without a fight at Narva, Peter had made a start on reforming the mounted arm. From the recruits converging on Preobrazhenskoe, he ordered the formation of 2 dragoon regiments each commanded by a foreign officer. They did not perform well in battle in 1700, but proved useful for scouting and foraging. As a result, in 1701 the dragoons were increased by 12 new regiments, and thereafter expansion continued apace. By 1709 the Westernized cavalry comprised 37 regiments (34 of dragoons and 3 of horse grenadiers). Generally speaking, however, this arm never matched the quality of Peter's new infantry, since it lacked both enough competent officers and good horses.

From 1704 all existing dragoon regiments were increased from ten 100-man companies in five two-company squadrons to 12 companies in four three-company squadrons. In 1705 a picked company of elite horse grenadiers was added to each dragoon regiment, but in 1708

all these were assembled into 3 new horse-grenadier regiments. In 1710 the internal organization of all cavalry regiments reverted to 10 companies. (See MAA 264, *Peter the Great's Army (2): Cavalry* for tables of units, including uniform colours.)

Until 1719 Peter's Imperial Guard had no cavalry units, but since 1704 the army's two leading commanders had been protected by picked cavalry escorts: the Life Squadron of Prince Menshikov, and the General's Dragoon Company of Count Sheremetiev. These were both actually true line cavalry, not dragoons, and were almost entirely composed of young officers. In 1706 the governor of the newly founded city of St Petersburg was also given a dragoon company, which performed police duties in the new capital. In 1719 the tsar ordered the amalgamation of these three squadron-sized units to form a Life Guard Cavalry Regiment.

Peter the Great ordered the formation of the Life Guard Regiment only in 1719, virtually at the end of the war; thereafter it served as a training unit for young officers, to prepare them for command in dragoon regiments. For this trooper's uniform colours, see Plate B1; one of the special embellishments for this elite unit was hat edging of gold lace and clipped white-and-red feathers, normally an officer's distinction.

Light cavalry

During the Great Northern War the Russian light cavalry initially consisted only of Cossacks and other irregular troops of uncertain reliability. Originally the Cossacks were runaways from areas under tsarist control, who formed independent communities in unclaimed territories in southern Russia and Ukraine. As time passed, their skills as light horsemen made them valuable occasional allies; by the time of Peter the Great the Don Cossacks still retained some autonomy but were coming increasingly under Russian control, while the Hetmanate of the Ukrainian Cossacks remained fully independent. Each of these two Cossack 'hosts' fielded a differing number of regional regiments. Each regiment comprised a certain number of *sotni* ('hundreds', though these might actually muster up to 200 men), divided in their turn into troops (sing. *kurin*) of 25–50 riders. In addition to Cossacks, other irregular light-horse contingents were provided by Asiatic steppe peoples such as the Kalmuks and the Bashkirs.

In late 1707, when the 'Bulavin Rebellion' broke out among the Don Cossacks, the tsar began to pay attention to forming a regular light cavalry based on the model of the Hungarian hussars of the Austrian

A member of the elite bombardier company of the Artillery Regiment raised in 1701. The black leather helmet has a brass plate partly painted black to emphasize the imperial double-headed eagle badge, and brass 'bursting grenade' badges on the sides. The coat is red with blue facings, the waistcoat blue and the breeches red – see Plate B3 – here worn with white-and-blue ticking stockings. The artist had clearly never seen a 'hand mortar'; these had a swollen bore to accommodate the large propellant charge and spherical grenade.

Russian driver of the Artillery Train (left) and NCO of the Artillery Regiment (right). The driver has simple clothing of civilian appearance: a *kartuz* cap and a coat in contrasting shades of grey, a buff leather waistcoat and gloves, and black leather riding boots. The NCO has a white-trimmed tricorne, a red coat with blue facings, apparently a red waistcoat, ticking gaiters, and a blue sash of rank. The fact that he has a buff leather belt with a belly-box and carries a musket reminds us that this regiment in fact consolidated all the army's technical troops, and included detachments of miners, pontoneers, pioneers and petardeers as well as the companies of bombardiers and gunners.

Empire. The first 300-strong hussar squadron was recruited among Christian inhabitants of Hungary, Serbia, Moldavia and Wallachia; commanded by a Wallachian nobleman, it was stationed on the border with the Ottoman Empire. Shortly before the campaign against the Ottomans in 1711 the regular light cavalry was increased to 6 full regiments of hussars, each to have four 200-man squadrons. However, they gave such a poor account of themselves during that campaign that they were later reduced to two regiments, which were themselves disbanded in 1721.

Artillery

All line infantry units had a regimental artillery section of two guns. In the Guard, an elite bombardier company with hand-mortars firing grenades was attached to the Preobrazhenskoe Regt; that unit also had 6 mortars and 4 field guns, while the Semyonovskoe had 6 field guns. However, despite a long tradition of gun-founding and wide dispersal of cannon in fortresses, before 'first Narva' the tsars' field armies did not have an artillery corps as such, only an artillery train assembled from pieces provided by the Moscow and other kremlins. By 1700 an army might boast more than 300 guns divided between different contingents

While the light regimental guns were retained throughout the war, in 1701 an independent Regiment of Artillery was created, with guns grouped into batteries according to function (field, fortress or siege). This regiment was in fact a composite unit of all 'technical' troops, structured as follows: one company of bombardiers; six companies of gunners; one company of miners; a detachment of engineers, one of pontoneers/pioneers, and a third of petardeers (to handle explosive charges). In addition to their hand-mortars the bombardiers served howitzers and mortars, and the gunners the cannon. Under the supervision of a Scottish artillery specialist, James William Bruce, these reforms produced a highly trained unit of excellent quality.

THE SWEDISH ARMY

'Enlisted' and 'provincial' regiments

At the outbreak of the Great Northern War the Swedish army was famous for its thorough training and discipline. Charles XII inherited an army of 65,000 men – remarkable, given Sweden's limited human and natural resources, but barely sufficient to defend his widespread territories. It comprised two main components: 25,000 paid, full-time volunteers in *varvade* 'enlisted' regiments, each raised by its colonel and kept permanently up to strength; and 40,000 conscripts in *indelta* 'provincial'

Engraving from a contemporary equestrian portrait of King Charles XII of Sweden commemorating his victory at Narva in 1700; the young king was a notably skilled horseman. Here he is depicted wearing a steel cuirass over a buff-coloured leather coat, as was still common for Swedish heavy cavalry at the outbreak of the war, and seen in senior-officer portraits for years thereafter. The cuirass lining visible at the shoulder, holster covers, shabraque, and apparently the lining of the leather coat, are presumably embroidered in gold on blue. Compare with the studio portrait on page 3. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library, Providence, RI)

regiments. The former were funded by revenues from the roughly one-third of the national territory controlled directly by the crown. The latter were raised by a complex *indelningsverk* or 'allotment system' applied to the rural peasant population (the inhabitants of Sweden's few cities were usually conscripted for service in the navy).

The allotment system had been created by Gustavus Adolphus (r. 1611–32 – see MAAs 235 & 262, *The Army of Gustavus Adolphus 1: Infantry* and *2: Cavalry*) and modified by Charles XI in 1682. Basically, every four peasant farms together formed a ward or *rotar*, to collectively provide one recruit for that province's infantry regiment. Since most regiments numbered 1,200 soldiers, each province was divided into 1,200 wards. The chosen soldier from each was given an additional croft or *soldattorp* by his community, and the other members of his ward also funded his military equipment; when a soldier died or retired his croft was passed to a new conscript. In peacetime the chosen men had to train regularly but continued to work their land, since the provincial regiments were

Swedish infantry officer, in the post-1706 uniform with 'squared' pocket flaps and buttoned-back skirts, wearing a winter cloak over his uniform (see Plate C3). Note the half-pike and the gorget identifying his status, but in general Swedish officers enjoyed fewer privileges than in other contemporary armies. Both the officers and men of Charles XII's army showed great personal loyalty to their king, and came to be known as '*Karoliner*' – 'Charles's men'.

usually mobilized only in time of war. The conscripts were physically hardy farmers, and since they were neighbours their regimental cohesion was good. The crown paid officers of provincial units by giving them a homestead among the wards, exempt from the *rotar* and with rights over tax revenues from nearby farms; consequently, officers and men were well known to each other.

The allotment system could mobilize troops rapidly. Upon the call to serve, conscripts assembled locally and within a couple of days were organized into 50-man 'corporalships'; three of these made up a company, four companies formed a battalion, and two battalions a regiment, which could be mustered in roughly a week following a declaration of war.

Extended conscription

After the outbreak of the Great Northern War the need for more infantry was soon recognized. In order to form new regiments, all the existing provincial *rotars* were assembled in groups of three, with each of these new '12-farm' groups providing one additional recruit. These extra provincial regiments formed by tripled *rotars* were known as *tremanning* units. Since thinly inhabited Finland was particularly threatened by Russia, the Finnish counties decided to assemble their *rotars* in groups of only two, each of which was to provide an extra recruit for new regiments numbering only 600 men each.

Initially Charles XII promised that the *tremanning* regiments would remain in Sweden or Finland, but in fact many were soon sent to fight abroad. Even this did not suffice, and as the war progressed conscription was extended even further. In those provinces where the *tremanning* units had remained in local garrison service the *rotars* were assembled into groups of four to provide yet another recruit for units, termed *foermanning*. In those provinces whose *tremanning* soldiers had already been sent across the Baltic the burden was slightly eased, with *rotars* assembled into groups of five to provide the extra recruit (*femmanning*).

The Life Guard on Foot

The elite and oversized Royal Majesty's Life Guard on Foot originally had 1,900 men in 12 companies: ten with 150 soldiers and two with 200. At the outbreak of war 100 men were assigned as palace guards in Stockholm, and the remaining 1,800 formed 18 companies of 100 men each, of which three were of grenadiers. In 1702 another three fusilier companies were added, followed in 1703 by another three companies of grenadiers, bringing the Life Guard up to its definitive establishment of 24 companies, in four battalions with six companies each, one of the battalions being entirely formed of grenadiers. In 1718, after the death of Charles XII and a subsequent disastrous winter retreat from Norway, the regiment was reduced again to 18 companies, of which three were grenadiers. Soldiers of the Foot Guard regiment were chosen from among the best recruits from throughout the country, and as the war progressed they were picked from the best veterans in each line infantry regiment.

From 1702, the number of palace guards was increased to 120; these were supplemented by a small ceremonial corps of Foot *Drabants* ('guards') which numbered just 50 (later 24) soldiers.

The line infantry

On paper, each of the eight companies forming the two battalions of an enlisted or provincial line regiment mustered 150 all ranks, with 82 fusiliers, 48 pikemen and 16 grenadiers. (Curiously, the 128 grenadiers of each regiment were not assembled into a separate company.) Before the war most of the enlisted regiments were deployed in the various cities and fortresses of the external territories of the Swedish empire, while the provincial units were stationed in Sweden and Finland for home defence. In 1700, before mobilization, the infantry were distributed as follows:
Sweden: 15 provincial *indelta* regiments and 3 enlisted *varvade* regiments
Finland: 7 provincial *indelta* regiments
Baltic possessions: 4 enlisted *varvade* regiments
German possessions: 7 enlisted *varvade* regiments.

After mobilization in 1700 the infantry deployed a total of 14 enlisted regiments, 22 original provincial regiments, plus 15 provincial regiments formed by the extra conscription from *rotars* assembled in groups of two or three. (The establishment of the provincial infantry also included the 1,000-strong Jamtland Regiment of Dragoons serving on the Norwegian border – oddly named, since it mustered two infantry battalions and only one mounted company, which generally operated independently.)

In 1701 the provincial infantry was augmented with an independent 500-strong 'mountain' battalion. A second was added in 1703, and in 1705 the two battalions were grouped as a regiment. This elite unit was raised from the mining districts of Sweden, which were exempted from the standard 'allotment system'.

As the war progressed the initial structure of the Swedish infantry was frequently modified to meet operational needs. Several of the original units were disbanded, especially after the heavy losses suffered at Poltava. While the provincial infantry was augmented by the formation of *foermanning* and *femmanning* regiments (see above), many new enlisted units were raised from prisoners of war. Four were created in 1706: one Swiss and one French battalion, one Bavarian regiment, and one 'mixed' regiment. In 1707 one regiment and three battalions of Saxons were formed, and a further German battalion in 1710. Among Charles XII's minor hereditary possessions was the Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrucken, a state of the Holy Roman Empire located near the Rhine, where he recruited a 500-strong infantry battalion in 1712. During 1716 an independent elite battalion of 500 grenadiers was created. In 1717, after his first failed invasion of Norway, Charles XII absorbed most of the Swedish navy's sailors into the army in order to form seven new 'naval infantry' regiments, but these were disbanded in 1719.

Fusilier of Swedish line infantry, 1706–20, wearing his blue coat, faced yellow, and yellow 'smallclothes' (waistcoat and breeches), plus buff winter gloves. From 1706 the coat buttons ran only from neck to belly, encouraging the buttoning back of the skirts and the adoption of horizontal pockets. Other detail changes included the addition of a 'falling' collar and of piping to the shoulder straps, both in facing colour; see Plate C2.

The cavalry: the Horse Guard

The Swedish mounted troops included both heavy cavalry and dragoon units, but since the use of cuirasses almost disappeared after 1700 there was practically no difference between them, apart from the dragoons generally having smaller and lower-quality horses. Organizationally, the cavalry deployed five distinct kinds of unit: the Horse Guard, enlisted regiments, provincial regiments, *adelsfanan* units formed by the nobility, and *standsdragoner* raised from Church lands.

The Horse Guard consisted of two distinct corps: the Horse Drabants and the Life Regiment. Before 1700 the former had been one of the

This drawing of an NCO (left) and fusilier of a Finnish regiment, in blue coats with red facings and lining, shows more clearly the 'squared' post-1706 pocket flaps with seven buttonholes and the pleated rear skirts of the modified Swedish coat. The sergeant seems to have gloves tucked into his belt, and as well as lace-edged pocket flaps he would have a line of lace around the top of his cuffs. As in some other contemporary armies, the soldier's hair is drawn back into a small black cloth bag tied with a bow; this was to keep the white hair-powder used on formal occasions from discolouring the coat.

The defence of Swedish Finland against Russia largely depended upon Finnish troops. Neither Sweden nor Russia ever had the resources for a major campaign in the interior wilderness, but in 1713–14 gaining control of Finland's west coast was vital to secure Russia's naval advantage over Sweden.

100-strong companies of the Foot Guard, which was re-designated after the outbreak of war. This small elite corps was entirely formed of young officers who had distinguished themselves by their courage and loyalty; the lowest rank held was that of captain, and after a period of service officers could progress to higher rank in line cavalry units. The Horse Drabants distinguished themselves on several occasions, saving the king's life on various battlefields, and most of them accompanied Charles XII during his exile in the Ottoman Empire. After he returned to Sweden in 1715 he reorganized the unit by incorporating some picked veterans from line cavalry regiments; it thus lost its all-officer character, and became the 350-strong Life Squadron. This corps was distinct from the *Livregementet,* which had existed since 1667 as the mounted equivalent of the Life Guard on Foot; with 1,500 men organized into 12 companies each of 125 troopers, it recruited picked men from all over the country.

The line cavalry

The enlisted and provincial regiments had the same internal organization: eight 125-man companies, assembled into four 250-man squadrons. The enlisted units were recruited by colonels from volunteers, the provincial regiments by conscription. The manning of provincial cavalry regiments was based not on the *rotar* but on the *rusthallare,* a farm or estate that was rich enough to provide a mounted trooper in exchange for tax exemptions. Cavalry conscripts were provided with a croft exactly like infantrymen, but also received a salary from the estate owner. Since cavalry regiments generally numbered 1,000 soldiers, each province was divided into 1,000 *rusthallare.* Generally speaking, each province was to provide one of these *indelta* cavalry regiments. Sweden's cavalry strength in 1700 was as follows:

3 enlisted *varvade* regiments of heavy cavalry
5 enlisted *varvade* regiments of dragoons
4 enlisted *varvade* squadrons of dragoons
9 provincial *indelta* regiments of heavy cavalry
1 provincial *indelta* squadron of dragoons.

During the mobilization of 1700 another 6 regiments of provincial heavy cavalry were raised, by assembling the *rusthallare* in groups of two or three in order to provide an additional conscript.

'Noble flag' units, 'priest dragoons', and miscellaneous

The estates owned by noblemen, state officials and members of the Church were exempt from the 'allotment system', but on the outbreak of war they were obliged to raise military contingents, especially of cavalry. The nobility formed *adelsfanan* ('noble flag') units, entirely manned by aristocrats. There were five such regiments, one for each region of the empire: Sweden-Finland, Estonia-Ingria, Livonia, Pomerania, and Bremen-Verden. The 'noble flag' regiment from Sweden-Finland had six 100-man companies, five of them Swedish and one Finnish. The regiment from Estonia-Ingria likewise had 600 men in six companies,

while that from Livonia had 300 men in three companies. The two German units were even smaller, numbering only about 150 men each. For their part, the Church estates contributed to the war effort by forming five regiments of *standsdragoner*. These 'priest dragoons' were raised by applying the provincial conscription system to ecclesiastical properties.

Each Swedish infantry unit had a certain number of 'field craftsmen' equipped with large felling axes, who acted as pioneers. They should not be confused with the provost NCOs acting as military policemen to maintain discipline, who carried a distinctive smaller axe as a mark of status.

The Swedish cavalry also included some units formed for particular purposes, or raised from prisoners of war. The army's quartermaster-general had an elite cavalry escort known as the Enspannar Company. In 1706, after the Swedes placed Stanisław Leszczyński on the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, they recruited some free companies of cavalry from Poles who were loyal to the new king. These were later assembled into a single unit known as the Wallachian Regt; in 1712, after Augustus II regained his throne, this was renamed the Niester Regt, and after the fall of Stralsund in 1715 it became simply the Polish Regiment. Finally, the Swedes could also deploy a small unit of French horse grenadiers, raised from prisoners of war captured while in the service of Saxony.

The artillery

Commanded by the army's quartermaster-general (who was also responsible for all arsenals and ammunition factories), the Royal Artillery Regiment, 1,888 strong, enjoyed a reputation second only to the Guards. Responsible for manning both garrison and field guns, it was dispersed across the whole territory of the Swedish empire, in 44 detachments stationed in 42 different locations: 18 in Sweden and Finland, 12 in the Baltic and 12 in Germany. (The infantry's regimental sections were additional to these detachments.)

After returning from his exile in 1715, Charles XII completely reorganized the arm, dividing it between fortress artillery and field artillery. The latter was structured as seven companies (five of gunners, one of miners, and one of petardeer 'fireworkers'), plus an additional company of gunners formed in Finland.

This heavy cavalryman of the 1690s, carrying a slung musket, wears the old, heavy 'buffalo' leather coat (*kyller*) under his cuirass. This was replaced around the turn of the century with a lighter buckskin version termed a *kamisol*, which was worn under the blue uniform coat. Note too the broad slouch hat, also worn by infantry before the introduction of the tricorne and still to be seen in use by some troops at the beginning of the war.

Militia

In case of military emergency, especially when regular units left their home stations for deployment overseas, the burghers of Swedish cities might be called upon to form independent militia companies. These were generally infantry, although some cavalry companies were raised in Stockholm. While generally poorly trained and equipped, the citizen militia might have some value as garrison troops, and also acted as community police and firefighters. The commanders were elected by their companies.

In 1700 Sweden had no rural militia except in the provinces of Värmland and Dalarna that bordered Norway. There companies were formed according to traditional district subdivisions, and any militiaman who did not own a weapon was issued a musket from state arsenals. In 1710 militia companies were formed among the peasants of Västergötland province (also bordering Norway).

In Finland, which faced a direct Russian threat from the beginning of the war, peasants and farmers were organized in militia companies from 1702, and subsequently took part in some conventional battles. After Finland was occupied by the Russians irregular 'free companies' continued to wage guerrilla warfare, making good use of their skill with skis in winter.

Before 1700 Sweden's Baltic and German possessions had contributed only to the recruitment of the professional 'enlisted' units, being exempt from conscription, but during the course of the war they were obliged to form conscript home-defence units. In Estonia four 1,000-man infantry regiments of National Militia were raised, and another battalion of 500 men on the large Osel Island. The four regiments earned a good reputation, and were subsequently absorbed into the Swedish army as 'enlisted' regiments. Livonia was slower to respond; it finally mustered 13 independent infantry battalions of just 300 men each, though these proved to be of lower quality. Four independent militia dragoon squadrons were also created in the Baltic provinces, numbering 1,000 men in total. Poorly supplied, and mostly armed with old matchlock muskets, all these Baltic militia units were completely destroyed by 1710.

In Sweden's German territories, four small militia infantry regiments were raised from Bremen, Stettin, Anklam and Rügen Island.

Augustus II, Elector of Saxony 1694–1733 and King of Poland 1697–1706 & 1709–33, portrayed in full blackened armour. The Saxon monarch, nicknamed 'the Strong' for his great physical prowess, was one of Sweden's most determined enemies. He was so ambitious for his dynasty that in 1697, after the death of John III Sobieski (the Polish saviour of Vienna), he spent great sums and even agreed to convert to Catholicism in order to secure his election to the throne of Poland-Lithuania. His conversion outraged many of his Saxon subjects, and did little to cement his control over his unruly new realm. Sweden helped a Polish faction to depose him in 1706, and after his return in 1709 he was dependent on the support of Peter the Great.

THE SAXON ARMY

The Saxon army of Augustus II was qualitatively one of the best in Germany; famous for its discipline and training, it had benefited from combat experience against the Ottomans on the Danube and the French on the Rhine. By the outbreak of war in 1700, Augustus had enlarged it as follows:

2 regiments of foot guards (Sachsische Garde & Polnische Garde)
8 regiments of line infantry
1 regiment of horse guards (Garde du Corps)
5 regiments of cuirassiers
4 regiments of dragoons
Artillery corps.

Infantry

Saxon units were either recruited by colonels using traditional methods, or were 'bought' from other German states. In 1702, and again in 1709, Augustus tried to introduce an element of conscription, by which each district (*amter*) would provide a certain number of recruits according to its taxation rolls. However, this plan came to nothing due to the determined resistance of the Saxon nobility, who as regimental 'proprietors' had a vested interest in the same recruitment pool.

All the infantry regiments initially had 16 companies: 15 of fusiliers and one of grenadiers, each 150 strong. During the course of the Great Northern War this organization was changed according to circumstances. From 1702 each infantry regiment consisted of 13 companies: 12 of fusiliers and one of grenadiers. In 1705 the organization changed again, normal establishment being increased to 16 fusilier companies divided into two battalions. As in other armies of the period, each Saxon infantry unit also had a small artillery detachment (22 men) manning two or more light field guns.

Uniforms of the Saxon line infantry regiment Du Caila: from left to right, grenadier, officer, NCO, fusilier, drummer. The basic line infantry uniform was a black tricorne with white edging; a collarless red coat with buttoned-open lapels and skirt, with facings and lining in regimental colour – in this case, green; buff-coloured breeches; and stockings in regimental colour (winter) or white (summer) – here white gaiters are worn over them. Knötel draws the grenadier wearing a single buff glove on his right hand; for his mitre cap, see Plate E2. The officer shows smallclothes in the green regimental facing colour, and lavish gold-lace decoration.

Cavalry

The Garde du Corps regiment initially consisted of just two companies, but was soon increased to four squadrons each of three companies, each squadron being distinguished by the colour of its horses.

The regiment was completely reorganized in 1701; now it consisted of four independent companies, each having a different denomination: *Trabanten*, *Karabiniere*, *Grenadiere zu Pferde* and *Dragoner*. Each company was formed of two 'brigades', subdivided in turn into two '*sous*-brigades'. The original members of the Garde du Corps made up the dragoon company, while the others were formed by absorbing three other small guard corps that Augustus had created in 1698–99: the former *Grands Mousquetaires* became the *Trabanten*, while the Carabiniers and Horse Grenadiers retained their names.

The regiments of cuirassiers initially had 12 companies, which could be assembled either in four squadrons of three companies or in six squadrons of two companies. The dragoon regiments had the same internal organization, but each company included a certain number of horse grenadiers.

In 1702 the Garde du Corps was temporarily disbanded and its soldiers used as cadres for the formation of new cuirassier regiments. In that same year, the composition of all cuirassier and dragoon regiments was reduced

Saxon fusilier of the line infantry regiment Flemming. Knötel shows a red neck cloth, and the red coat opened wide to show the waistcoat in this regiment's blue facing colour. The coat's blue lapels bear white buttonhole 'loops' with buttons set on centrally. The buff-coloured breeches are confined by blue outer stockings held up by garter straps. The belt equipment is of buff leather.

from 12 to 8 companies, assembled into four squadrons. In 1703 the Garde du Corps was re-formed, again with four companies, but now with each divided into three 'brigades'. In 1707 the company distinctions were abolished, and all the soldiers of the corps were termed *Trabanten*.

Artillery

From 1701 this arm was organized as six companies of gunners each serving 6 to 8 pieces, one company of engineers and one of pontoneers.

Militia

Saxony also had a system whereby the nobility were to raise militia cavalry, and urban and rural communities provided infantrymen. By law, however, the militia were limited to operations inside the borders of the electorate during foreign invasions, so during the early war years Augustus used them simply as a recruitment pool for his regular units.

When the Swedes invaded Saxony in 1706 the mobilized militiamen simply returned their weapons to the arsenals and marched home without fighting. In 1709 Augustus introduced new measures, under which one able-bodied man out of every three was to serve in the militia for a period of three years. They were assembled in departmental *Reisregimente* with three battalions each of four companies. This new system did not work particularly well, and the eight regiments that were formed were all disbanded in 1716.

Wartime changes

The general structure described above was changed on several occasions under the pressure of events. Various units were disbanded, others were amalgamated after suffering heavy losses, and many new ones were created. After the crushing defeat of 1706, for example, the two regiments of Foot Guards were temporarily assembled into a single *Doppelregiment* with four battalions. On many occasions soldiers taken from disbanded infantry regiments were used to replace the losses of the Foot Guards units. New infantry units formed during the conflict included some foreign ones: a French grenadier battalion and a Swiss infantry regiment were both raised in 1703. On several occasions Saxon regiments were reinforced with men from disbanded Polish units, but Augustus generally preferred to use fresh recruits to form new units instead of reinforcing badly mauled existing ones.

'Exotica'

Augustus II was famous for his extravagant 'baroque' tastes and his enjoyment of elaborate uniforms and parades, and consequently his military household included several more or less exotic guard units. The only one that preceded his succession was a company of Swiss Guards at his palace in Dresden, dressed and armed similarly to those in Papal service but in distinctive Saxon livery colours. (The regular infantry also provided an independent garrison battalion stationed in Dresden.)

In 1695–96 Augustus had commanded an Imperial army fighting the Ottomans in the Balkans. During this campaign he was so impressed by the Turkish janissaries that he decided in 1699 to create a company of his own (two such units had already been part of the Polish royal guard for decades). In 1703 Augustus raised a Chevalier Guard exclusively of noblemen, modelled on the Swedish 'Horse Drabants' of Charles XII (see above); this was a single 180-strong, all-officer squadron organized in three 60-man 'brigades'. A company of mounted *hajduks* (irregular light troops, formerly in Russian service) entered Saxon service in 1713, but their Russian officers soon encouraged them to desert. In the same year Augustus acquired the services of a two-company squadron of aristocratic Hungarian hussars. All these units were extremely expensive, and the only one to play a significant military role was the Chevalier Guard, which fought courageously on several occasions.

Danish infantry uniforms (see text under Plate F); from left to right, fusilier of the Foot Guard Regt and two grenadiers of the Grenadier Regt in post-1711 uniforms, and line infantry fusilier pre-1711.

Readers should remember that Knötel is not always a trustworthy source; for the Foot Guard, modern scholars reconstruct a straw-yellow coat with two close-set rows of front buttons linked by red piping, red cuffs and lining, and red smallclothes (see Select Bibliography, entry beginning 'www.tacitus'). For the two grenadiers, see Plate F1. The pre-1711 figure wears the light grey collarless coat which had cuffs and piping in regimental colours, also used for the breeches and winter stockings. Examples of regimental colours are yellow (Prince Christian) and green (Fynske).

THE POLISH & LITHUANIAN ARMIES

Until the death of John III Sobieski in 1697 the Polish-Lithuanian forces had been the largest and most powerful in Eastern Europe. They were traditionally strong in cavalry provided by the nobility, but these magnates tended to employ their 'private armies' to pursue their own agendas. Against this background, the contested accession of Augustus II of Saxony soon caused internal conflicts that reduced the armies to a state of anarchy and, from 1704, to actual civil war. The Polish aristocracy had no quarrel with Sweden, and the Commonwealth was involved in the war purely at the will of Augustus. Although many campaigns were fought on Polish-Lithuanian territory, the Commonwealth itself remained a largely passive participant.

'National' and 'foreign' contingents

Formally, the Commonwealth had separate Polish and Lithuanian armies. Each of these was divided into a national contingent (*autorament narodowy*) and a foreign contingent (*autorament cudzoziemski*). The national contingents comprised the following troop types: 'winged hussars' (heavy cavalry); *pancerni* (medium cavalry); light cavalry (Tatars and Wallachians); and *hajduks* (Polish-Hungarian light infantry, typically serving as personal guards for commanders). The foreign contingents comprised 'German' (i.e. Westernized) line infantry, *Reiters* (heavy cavalry), and dragoons. No proper artillery corps existed; most guns were in the hands of the nobility, being scattered between various fortresses.

All Polish-Lithuanian units were raised and commanded by the nobility. The national contingents still had a Renaissance character, with armoured heavy and medium cavalry, while the foreign contingents had a more modern aspect and training. The units of the national contingents

Interesting Knötel drawing of two gunners of the Lunenburg-Celle artillery company before amalgamation into the single Hanoverian army in 1705. They wear red coats with green facings; the Hanover-Calenbeg company had grey coats faced with red. The left man presumably has a priming flask slung to his left hip, and appears to carry a knotted length of slowmatch. Note the right man's two holstered pistols, and his short brass-hilted sidearm with a bird's-head pommel.

were structured on 'banners' of anything between 60 and 120 soldiers, while those of the foreign contingents were organized as Westernized regiments with 100-strong companies. After the death of Sobieski both armies were greatly reduced in numbers: their structure at the outbreak of the Great Northern war was as follows:

Polish Army

22 banners of winged hussars (each 60–120 men, but total only 1,600)
13 banners of light cavalry (each 40–100 men, but total only 710)
25 regiments of 'foreign' infantry (each 100–800 men, total 7,040)
3 regiments of 'foreign' heavy cavalry (1 of 300 men & 2 of 200, plus two independent 100-strong companies, total 900)
3 regiments of 'foreign' dragoons (1 of 1,000 men & 2 of 600, plus two independent 100-strong companies, total 2,400)

Lithuanian Army

4 banners of winged hussars (each 100 men, total 400)
28 banners of *pancerni* (each 100 men, total 2,800)
10 banners of light cavalry (each 100 men, total 1,000)
6 regiments of 'foreign' infantry (each 200–600 men, but total only 2,000)
3 independent companies of 'foreign' heavy cavalry (each 100 men, total 300)
11 independent companies of 'foreign' dragoons (each 100 men, total 1,100).

(continued on page 33)

RUSSIAN INFANTRY & DRAGOONS
1: Fusilier, Semyonovskoe Guard Regt, 1700
2: Grenadier, line infantry, 1710
3: Dismounted dragoon, 1705
1
2
3

RUSSIAN CAVALRY & ARTILLERY

1: Trooper, Life Guard Cavalry Regt, 1720
2: Trooper, Smolenski Dragoon Regt, 1710
3: Bombardier, Artillery Regt, 1715

SWEDISH INFANTRY
1: Fusilier, line infantry, c. 1706
2: Grenadier, Pommerska Infantry Regt, c. 1710
3: Fusilier, line infantry, winter
1
2
3

SWEDISH CAVALRY & ARTILLERY
1: Trooper, Horse Drabants, c. 1706
2: Trooper, Sodra Skansa Cavalry Regt, 1710
3: Gunner, Artillery Regt, 1715
1
2
3

SAXON & POLISH-LITHUANIAN ARMIES
1: Guardsman, Saxon Janissary Corps, 1700
2: Saxon horse grenadier, Saschen-Weissenfels Dragoon Regt, 1716
3: Lancer, Polish light cavalry, 1700

DANISH-NORWEGIAN ARMY
1: Grenadier, Danish Grenadier Regt, 1703
2: Courier, Norwegian Skiløpere Co, 1712
3: Trooper, Danish 2nd Jutland Cav Regt, 1700

GERMAN ARMIES
1: Prussian grenadier, Leib-Garde Regt, 1708
2: Hanoverian trooper, Goden Cavalry Regt, 1710
3: Holstein fusilier, Barner Infantry Regt, 1700
1
2
3

TATARS, DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES & COSSACKS
1: Tatar heavy cavalryman, 1712
2: Moldavian light cavalryman, 1712
3: Ukrainian Cossack, 'mercenary' inf regt, 1710

Royal Guard

At their personal expense, Polish-Lithuanian monarchs also had under their direct command a Royal Guard, which at the time of Sobieski's death comprised:

Drabant Guard (bodyguard of 150 gentlemen halberdeers)
Regiment of King's Reiters (1,000 'Westernized' heavy cavalry, in six squadrons)
Banner of Court Hussars (100 aristocratic young 'winged hussars')
King's Footguard (a 'Westernized' regiment)
Queen's Footguard (as above)
Prince's Footguard (as above)
King's Dragoon Regiment (as above).

In addition, this force included two small corps of Swiss Guards (one each for the king and the queen); two infantry companies of Hungarian *hajduks*, and two of janissaries formed with Ottoman prisoners and deserters.

Fusiliers of the elite Prussian Guard at the time of Frederick I. The black tricorne has white edging; the collarless dark-blue coat has white cuffs edged with lace; the waistcoat, breeches and stockings are white. The belts are buff, and the black ammunition pouch bears the crowned 'FR' monogram in brass.

Private armies

Most Polish and Lithuanian nobles maintained private armies of modest size, though sometimes increased with significant numbers of Tatar mercenaries. When groups of nobles rebelled against the central authorities, these formed the core of the forces deployed by their various confederations. The major cities could also deploy some (usually mercenary) units of infantry and cavalry independently from the central government.

When Sweden's ally Stanisław Leszczyński was elected King of Poland in 1704, most of the Polish army remained loyal to the deposed Augustus II and fought against the Swedes and the nobles supporting Leszczyński during the years of chaotic civil war. After Augustus II regained the throne the supporters of Leszczyński followed him into exile and were organized as an auxiliary division of the Swedish army. The Lithuanian regular forces remained loyal to the leading Sapieha family, who had sided with Sweden since 1701. When the Polish nobility revolted against Augustus once again in 1715 the regular Polish army sided with them. Consequently, when this new civil war ended in 1717, Augustus greatly reduced and completely reorganized the Commonwealth's forces, which played no part in the last years of the Great Northern War.

THE DANISH & NORWEGIAN ARMIES

During the late 17th century Denmark and Norway were united under the former country's monarchy. The Danish kings also formally controlled the Duchy of Holstein (though the duke was also linked by blood to the Swedish throne), and some other small areas on the northern coast of Germany. The Danish and Norwegian military forces were organized separately, and the latter seldom served abroad, being intended to defend Norway's long frontier with Sweden. The Danish army, by contrast, was organized similarly to the Swedish. It included both professional

Frederick I of Prussia's Garde du Corps had an extravagant ceremonial uniform based on that of the French King's Musketeers; such outfits were extremely expensive in an age when gold and silver lace was embroidered or woven from threads of precious-metal bullion. The black hat was edged with gold lace, and the light-blue tabard, holster covers and shabraque were extensively embroidered and edged in gold.

volunteer 'enlisted' regiments (*hvervede*), and conscripted 'provincial' units (confusingly, termed *national*) – a minority, which were not kept up to full strength in peacetime. In case of need, the government could also call on a system of militia.

The Danish army: infantry

The Danish line infantry was entirely composed of *hvervede* regiments, whose companies were dispersed in various garrisons. Of the 11 regiments, 8 had three battalions each; of the other 3 regiments, 2 had two battalions and 1 a single battalion only. Most regiments had 19 companies: 18 of fusiliers and one of grenadiers. The fusiliers were organized in three battalions with six companies each, while the single grenadier company was attached to the first battalion. On occasion, grenadier companies of different regiments could be detached to form special grenadier battalions. On the outbreak of the Great Northern War all the grenadier companies were assembled to form an elite Grenadier Regt, which soon became the most important infantry unit except for the Foot Guards. After some time grenadier companies were re-formed within line infantry regiments, bringing them back to their original strength.

In 1701 the Prussian Garde du Corps was issued a simpler field uniform. Colours: black tricorne with gold edging; dark-blue coat with gold-edged red cuffs and gold-lace buttonholes; buff leather sword belt, gold-on-red musket belt, and red-and-gold sash. Prussian cavalry, both cuirassiers and dragoons, were armed with a straight sword, a pair of saddle-pistols, and a musket hooked to a broad crossbelt.

The elite Regiment of Foot Guards (and one other unit, the Queen's Regt), had two companies of grenadiers instead of one. The 3 regiments that did not have three battalions were structured as follows: Shack's Regt had 12 fusilier companies and one of grenadiers, in two battalions; the Marines Regt of naval infantry had 10 companies of musketeers and one of grenadiers, in two battalions; and the Oldenburg Battalion comprised five fusilier companies and one of grenadiers. Fusilier companies of all regiments numbered 100 men, while those of grenadiers had 110 (the only exception being oversized musketeer companies in the Marines Regiment). In 1703 the Danish infantry was enlarged by the addition of 2 regiments, each with a single battalion of 10 fusilier companies.

In cases of foreign invasion, the regular infantry was supplemented with the foot units of the national Land Militia. In total, 8 such regiments were mobilized during the Great Northern War; these each had 12 fusilier companies in three battalions. They had no separate grenadier companies, but each fusilier company incorporated eight individual grenadiers.

Cavalry and dragoons

In contrast to the infantry, the Danish cavalry included both a minority of *hvervede* and a majority of *national* units; only 3 regiments were professional, the other 10 being raised in the various provinces. Despite

their different recruiting methods, all cavalry regiments had the same internal organization of six companies, each with a wartime strength of 67 all ranks. Two of the 3 'enlisted' regiments had Guard status – the Life Guards of Horse and the Horse Guards. The king was personally protected by a mounted *Drabant Garde* of just 57 picked men. The 10 provincial regiments were recruited as follows: 3 from Zealand, 5 from Jutland and 2 from Funen. In 1703 a fourth, Cuirassier Regt was added to the 'enlisted' cavalry.

The Danish dragoons were organized separately in 2 'enlisted' regiments. One of them had Guard status, with one of its six companies being horse grenadiers; in the other regiment each standard company incorporated six grenadiers. There were also 2 standard-sized dragoon regiments in the Land Militia.

Prussian grenadier officer (left) and grenadier (right) both of the Leib-Garde Regiment. The officer wears a very rich non-regulation parade uniform in red, with lavish gold-lace edging, seams and embroidery. The soldier's uniform is that worn until 1708, when it was modified as reconstructed in Plate G1. The 'greatcoat' was a distinctive feature of some regiments including the Leib-Garde; note also the neck cloth and the mitre bag shown here as red. He has the grenadier's usual brass matchcase on the buff sling of his pouch, with a twisted length of spare match.

Artillery

This arm was structured in two separate units, the Danish Artillery Regt and the Holstein Artillery Regiment. The first had one 'arsenal' company and five companies of gunners; the second had one company of 'fireworkers' (petardeers) and seven of gunners, six of these being stationed in Holstein and one in Oldenburg. As in the other armies of the period, some light guns were also attached to the infantry battalions.

The Norwegian army: 'active' and 'reserve' conscription

While it included some volunteer 'enlisted' units, the Norwegian army was largely composed of 'provincial' conscripts. There was also a further distinction between 'active' and 'reserve' conscript companies, the latter being restricted to garrison duties.

The system of conscription (*utvalgte*) was very similar to that in Sweden, since most of Norway's population was dispersed in the small properties of free peasant farmers. Farms were assembled in pairs to form an administrative unit known as a *legd*, each of which was to provide one recruit for the 'active' conscript units. In addition, couples of *legds* (i.e. four grouped farms) each had to provide a soldier for the 'reserve', which formed several companies of infantry administratively attached to 'active' units. Farms owned by the crown, the aristocracy and the Church were each required to provide one 'active' cavalryman or dragoon; in addition, every four were assembled in a group known as a *dreng*, each of which was to provide a 'reserve' trooper or dragoon. Reserve horsemen did not form their own units, but were used as replacements for the 'active' element. The 'active' units of conscripts trained four times every year and were commanded by local civilian officials. The structure of the Norwegian army in 1700 was theoretically as follows:

2 'enlisted' infantry regiments (each 8 companies of fusiliers & 1 of grenadiers), plus two independent companies

6 mixed 'provincial' infantry regiments (each 9 'active' & 3 'reserve' companies)
6 mixed naval infantry companies (1 'enlisted' & 5 'provincial')
1 'provincial' cavalry regiment (8 companies)
1 mixed dragoon regiment (4 'enlisted' & 6 'provincial' companies)
1 'enlisted' artillery regiment (7 companies).

In practice, 1 of the 6 'provincial' infantry regiments had ten rather than nine 'active' companies, and 2 of them had five rather than three 'reserve' companies. Each company in the 'provincial' infantry regiments incorporated eight grenadiers. The six companies of naval infantry had 200 men each, but were disbanded before 1703. Each of the seven companies that made up the Artillery Regt was garrisoned in one of the major Norwegian fortresses.

Prussian grenadiers of the Anhalt-Dessau Regiment, pre-1713; left to right: NCO, soldier and officer. Colours: mitre with white front, white rear flap and red bag; (centre only) dark-blue 'greatcoat' with red lining, worn over dark-blue waistcoat with red buttonholes; red stockings; buff leather belts, black pouch with brass grenade badges in corners around royal monogram (obscured here). The NCO has a red leather pouch and pouch belt edged silver; the officer, gold-lace buttonholes and gold-edged red pouch and belt.

Wartime changes

In 1701 the two 'enlisted' infantry regiments were amalgamated to form a single unit having 16 companies.

During the same year, the 'provincial' cavalry regiment was transformed into dragoons, and the dragoon strength was further enlarged by the creation of 2 new regiments and one independent corps. One of the new dragoon regiments had six 'provincial' companies, while the other had three 'enlisted' and four 'provincial' companies; the independent corps comprised one 'enlisted' and four 'provincial' companies.

In 1710 there were some significant changes: one of the 6 'provincial' infantry units was divided to create 2 regiments (each with two battalions of six companies). A new volunteer light-infantry unit of *jagers* was formed from miners (who were exempt from the normal conscription system); this had three companies, partly armed with rifled weapons. That October the commanding general in Norway obtained permission to raise two independent special companies: one of ski troops (*Skiløpere*) and one of scouts (*Fyrrører*). These two innovative corps sought to attract the best volunteers from throughout the army; each man received the pay of a grenadier corporal, and was promised a grant of land at the end of the war. During 1711 the two corps completed their organization and became operational, primarily for reconnaissance and border patrols. They achieved excellent results, and the *Fyrrører* company was later absorbed into the Grenadier Regt of the Danish army.

In 1716 the two dragoon regiments created in 1701 were each enlarged by the addition of two more 'enlisted' and two 'provincial' companies.

During 1718 the structure of the Norwegian conscript infantry was changed. All regiments were divided into two, in order to form a new second unit from each province, and one regiment that had already been divided in 1710 was now to provide a third unit. Now all the 'provincial' infantry regiments were to comprise two battalions, each with six companies. A new infantry regiment was also formed by grouping most of the conscripted 'reserve' cavalrymen and dragoons who had not yet been posted to join units. Another two companies of ski troops were also created.

In 1719 the organization of the dragoon regiments was changed: each was now to have eight 'provincial' companies assembled in four squadrons. All the existing 'enlisted' companies were detached, and assembled to form a new all-volunteer 'enlisted' dragoon regiment.

THE HANOVERIAN ARMY

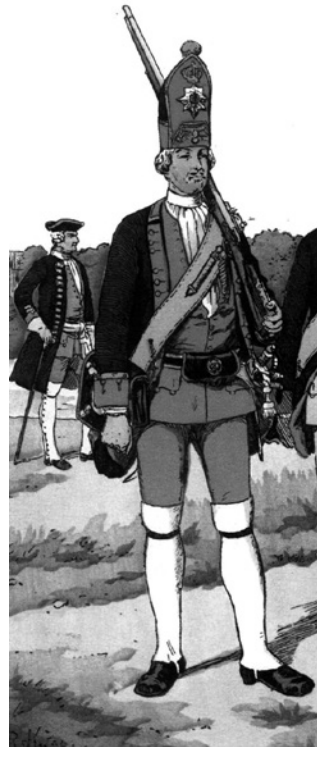
As noted above, the separate duchies of Hanover-Calenberg and Lunenburg-Celle were united in 1705 to form the single Duchy of Hanover, which was raised to the status of an Electorate of the Holy Roman Empire in 1708, and joined the alliance against Sweden in 1710. In 1714 the Elector George Louis also became King of Great Britain after the death of Queen Anne, thus beginning the personal union between Hanover and Britain. Before their fusion in 1705 the forces of Hanover-Calenberg and Lunenburg-Celle were organized as follows:

Hanover-Calenberg
1 battalion of Foot Guards
8 battalions of line infantry
1 regiment of Horse Guards
3 regiments of heavy cavalry
2 regiments of dragoons
1 company of artillery.

Lunenburg-Celle
2 battalions of Foot Guards
9 battalions of line infantry
1 'regiment' of Horse Guards (3 companies, total 150 men)
2 regiments of heavy cavalry
2 regiments of dragoons
1 company of artillery.

An additional heavy cavalry regiment was supported and paid jointly by both duchies, and each also had a certain number of garrison artillerymen deployed in various fortresses. The internal unit organization was the same for both armies: infantry battalions had seven companies, six of fusiliers and one of grenadiers; heavy cavalry regiments had two squadrons each with three companies; and dragoon regiments had either three or four squadrons each with two companies.

Amalgamated army, from 1705
3 battalions of Foot Guards
17 battalions of line infantry (18 from 1707)
2 regiments of Horse Guards



Prussian grenadier of Frederick William's famous 'Potsdam Giants' – the 3rd Bn of the King's Regiment – in the uniform used during the Great Northern War. Colours: mitre with blue bag, red piping and pompon; red front, red rear flap (see drawing on page 38), gold embroidery with silver star; dark-blue coat with red lining and facings, gold-edged red cuffs; red waistcoat and breeches; white stockings; buff leather belts, black pouches with brass badges.

The 'Potsdam Giants' drawn to demonstrate how hand grenades were used at the time of the Great Northern War. Trained under the personal supervision of King Frederick William I, this corps set the standards for the rest of the reformed Prussian infantry. Apart from their other tactical skills, they were reputed to be able to fire six shots per minute – an astonishing rate of fire with a flintlock musket, partly achieved thanks to their steel ramrods, which could be handled more urgently than easily breakable wooden rods.

6 regiments of heavy cavalry
4 regiments of dragoons
2 companies of artillery.

The internal unit structure remained unchanged, apart from the addition of a seventh fusilier company to each line infantry battalion. All infantry units had some light field guns attached.

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY

Formally, Prussia was a vassal duchy of Poland, though the ruling Hohenzollern family additionally controlled the Margravate of Brandenburg, a German state centred on Berlin. In 1701, alliances allowed Frederick I (r. 1701–13) to elevate Brandenburg-Prussia from duchy to kingdom, and hiring regiments out to the anti-French allies during the War of the Spanish Succession allowed his army to gain valuable experience and confidence.

The army of Frederick I

In 1702 Frederick I's army comprised the following units:
Guard status
1 company of Swiss Guards
1 battalion of Prussian Guards (5 companies)
2 regiments & 1 battalion of Foot Guards
2 companies of Gendarmes (cuirassiers)
2 squadrons of Garde du Corps
Line
16 regiments of line infantry (18 from 1703)
9 regiments of cuirassiers (10 from 1703)
4 regiments of dragoons (6 from 1704)
10 companies of artillery (1 of bombardiers & 9 of gunners).

Like Augustus the Strong, Frederick I of Prussia had extravagant tastes in royal guard units. The 100-strong *Schweizer Garde* of halberdeers, formed in 1696, was recruited from the Protestant cantons of Switzerland. Both the *Garde du Corps*, and the *Gendarmes* – the latter created from the former's 3rd Squadron in 1691 – were 'noble' honour guards, and the Garde du Corps were commonly known as '*Grands Mousquetaires*' from the similarity of their uniform with that of the contemporary French King's Musketeers. In 1703 the single-battalion *Weisse Grenadier-Garde*, raised in 1698, became a regiment after

absorbing the former battalion of Prussian Guards. The 1st Foot Guards or *Leib-Garde Regiment* initially had 30 companies in six five-company battalions, but its establishment was reduced in 1703 to 25 companies, and again in 1707 to 15. In that year Frederick I ordered the creation of a new 2nd Foot Guard regiment from the ten companies detached from the Leib-Garde.

The Prussian line infantry regiments consisted of two battalions each with five fusilier companies, each company incorporating a certain number of individual grenadiers. The cuirassier regiments had three squadrons and the dragoon regiments four, each squadron having two companies.

The army of Frederick William I

The military reforms introduced by Frederick's son Frederick William I (r. 1713–40) and his kinsman Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau would transform the Prussian army into one of the best in Europe. Known in later life as the 'Soldier King', it was Frederick William who created the magnificent instrument that he bequeathed to his own son, Frederick 'the Great'. A harsh monarch, but also frugal, hard-working and modern-minded, he reformed almost every aspect of his government.

His military reforms began in 1688 when he became commander of the Crown Prince Regt, and he gradually introduced innovations to improve its quality. In 1710 he also created an independent grenadier battalion, known variously as either the 'Red Bn' (from its uniform) or the 'Unranked Bn' (since it was not allocated a number). This experimental unit received higher pay and other privileges, and was intensively trained in the practical application of new tactical concepts. Since the minimum required height for recruits was 1.88m (6ft 2in), this unit was nicknamed the 'Potsdam Giants'. When Frederick William succeeded to the throne in 1713 his Crown Prince Regt was re-titled the King's Regt, with the exceptional establishment of 15 companies in three all-grenadier battalions, of which the 'Giants' became the 3rd Battalion.

The reforms introduced by Frederick William I would affect the whole army, but were immediately felt in the Guard units. In 1713 the Swiss Guard was abolished, while the Garde du Corps and Gendarmes were amalgamated to form a line cuirassier regiment. The Leib-Garde Regt was reduced to ten companies and lost its Guard status, being replaced in

Prussian heavy cavalrymen ('cuirassiers', although they wear no armour) of the Brandenburg Regiment, 1700. Colours: black tricorne edged white; white collarless coat with lining, cuffs and shoulder cords in light blue; waistcoat and breeches in buff leather. The sash is light blue and white, as are the musket belt and the saddle housings. Note, left, the musket butt supported by a 'saddle boot'.

Prussian heavy cavalryman from the Schlippenbach Regiment, 1713, holding the traditional long, straight *pallasch* sword of Germanic cavalry. Colours: black tricorne edged in white, white collarless coat with red cuffs and lining; waistcoat and breeches in buff leather.

that role by the King's Regiment. In 1716 the White Grenadier Guards, which had incorporated numbers of Swedish prisoners after the fall of Straslund, was also relegated to the line. Between 1713 and 1715 the line infantry was expanded by the creation of another seven regiments.

In 1714, one of two new regiments of dragoons created in 1704 was given Guard status and designated Horse Grenadiers. In 1717–18, all cuirassier and dragoon regiments were reorganized with five squadrons each of two companies. Four former dragoon regiments were transformed into cuirassiers, while two new regiments of dragoons were raised. As a result, at the end of the Great Northern War the Prussian cavalry had 14 regiments of cuirassiers and 4 of dragoons.

In 1714 a company of pontoneers was added to the artillery corps, which in 1716 was structured in two battalions, one of field and one of garrison artillery. The field battalion was stationed in Berlin, with five companies, while the four-company garrison battalion was dispersed between various fortresses.

THE HOLSTEIN ARMY

At the outbreak of the Great Northern War the Holstein region was divided in two parts: the northern half was part of Denmark's possessions, while the southern was ruled as an independent state by the house of Gottorp, although the Dukes of Holstein-Gottorp were, formally, vassals of the Danish crown. During the second half of the 17th century Swedish monarchs had negotiated marriage alliances with the rulers of Holstein-Gottorp, and consequently the outbreak of war in 1700 saw this small German duchy hotly contested by the two major Scandinavian powers. Before the outbreak of hostilities the duchy's small army consisted of the following units:

Drabant Guard (squadron of mounted bodyguards)
4 regiments of infantry (of which one designated Foot Guards)
2 regiments of dragoons (of which one designated Horse Guards)
1 artillery company (in the fortress of Tönning).

Holstein was also garrisoned by a Swedish infantry battalion, since the duchy's independence was guaranteed by an international convention placing Holstein-Gottorp under the joint protection of Sweden and of the 'Maritime Powers' (i.e. British and Dutch naval squadrons). During the years following Denmark's initial defeat and the Peace of Travendal, the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp married the sister of Charles XII. The Holstein army was now enlarged by the creation of two new units: a fifth, all-Swedish infantry regiment (having Guard status) and a heavy cavalry regiment. A second company of artillery was also raised. The infantry regiments were structured on the Swedish model, with two battalions each of four fusilier companies, and a grenadier company attached to the first battalion. In 1714 the Foot Guards Regt, one line infantry regiment,

the Horse Guards Regt and the heavy cavalry regiment all passed into Swedish service.

At the end of the Great Northern War the duchy lost a large part of its territory to Denmark.

COSSACKS, TATARS & DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES

Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate

Contrary to what might be supposed, the Cossack Hetmanate in Ukraine had an organized army comprising three main categories of troops: the Hetman's 'guard' units, so-called 'mercenary' regiments, and 'town' regiments.

The Hetman's personal troops comprised an 80-strong elite ceremonial bodyguard; a certain number of noble retainers each with his own armed servants; a troop of 50 dragoons; a squadron of Wallachian light cavalry; and several companies of 'chosen' infantry.

The six 'mercenary' regiments were recruited by colonels nominated by the Hetman, from free volunteers both Ukrainian and foreign, serving as professional soldiers paid and equipped by the Hetman. Being full-time units (unlike the 'town' regiments) they could also be employed for policing duties. The four infantry regiments (*serdiutski polky*) and two of cavalry (*kompaneiskie polky*) also differed from the 'town' regiments in showing notable loyalty to the Hetman; they garrisoned the most important locations in his realm, and defended him against internal uprisings. All these regiments, named after their commanders, were internally organized in 'hundreds' (*sotni*), but their strengths differed.

So too did those of the ten 'town' regiments, whose establishments varied according to the density of local populations. These units were all cavalry, raised from serfs in the traditional administrative subdivisions of the Hetmanate, and named after the main town in each: Gadyach, Pereyaslav, Kiev, Lubno, Mirgorod, Nezhin, Poltava, Priluki, Starodub and Chernigov. Men from the surrounding villages were assembled there, usually already grouped in their 'hundreds'. The recruits were exempted from taxes and forced labour service, but were unpaid and had to provide their own gear, so the chances of loot were presumably a stronger incentive than loyalty.

Crimean Tatar Khanate

At the outbreak of the Great Northern War the Ottoman territorial possessions north and west of the Black Sea comprised three semi-autonomous states, under nominal Ottoman rule but effectively independent: the Crimean Khanate, the Principality of Moldavia and the Principality of Wallachia.

The Crimean Khanate was the last remnant of the Mongol presence in Russia and Ukraine. After the fall of the Golden Horde during the later 15th century, Crimea survived as an independent khanate, but in order to resist Polish and Russian expansion this small tribal state was obliged to accept formal Ottoman suzerainty in 1475. The Tatars of

A slightly distorted reproduction of a drawing of a Cossack officer, dressed entirely in black apart from a white blouse and armed with a typical curved oriental sabre. The national costume of Cossacks had many variants, but common elements were usually a soft cap of cloth or fleece, a long *kaftan* coat, very full-cut breeches, and short riding boots of soft leather. Some units in the forces of the Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate received state-issue clothing which lent them a touch of uniformity (see Plate H3), but the Cossack regiments in Russian service followed no dress regulations.

Knötel's impression of Ottoman janissaries of the late 17th century. In 1695–96 Augustus II of Saxony commanded an Imperial army fighting the Turks in the Balkans, and during this campaign he came to admire the janissaries so much that he decided to create a company of these elite infantrymen among his own household troops. (Under John III Sobieski of Poland the Polish royal guard had also included two companies of janissaries formed with Ottoman prisoners of war and deserters, and uniformed in light blue.) In the Saxon case neither the human material, nor the uniform, were really comparable to the originals; see Plate E1.

Crimea benefited from Ottoman protection while continuing to be active as raiders and slave-traders for centuries thereafter. The army of the khanate was entirely mounted, retaining traditional Mongol models of organization and weaponry. The majority consisted of mounted archers with light personal equipment, but noblemen equipped with full armour made up a small corps of heavy cavalry. Military units were formed on a tribal basis: each Tatar noble commanded his own retainers, who were assembled in 'banners'. In total the khanate could field perhaps 25,000 horsemen, who made up the vanguard when an Ottoman army was operating in eastern Europe.

Moldavia and Wallachia

These two semi-autonomous states, covering most of modern Romania, were frequently involved in the major wars that were fought in eastern Europe; for instance, the great clashes between the Turks and the Poles usually took place on their territory. Their obligations towards the Sultan included paying an annual tribute; affording free passage to, and supplying, Ottoman forces crossing their territories during Turkish campaigns conducted north of the Danube; and sending their own troops to serve when required. Additionally, Ottoman merchants had a monopoly over some of the principalities' natural resources and trading activity.

The military forces of Moldavia and Wallachia shared more or less the same features: they were both divided into a 'small host' and a 'large host', which were recruited on a feudal basis. The 'small hosts' consisted of paid, well-equipped professional soldiers who were always ready to fight, forming the core of Moldavian and Wallachian armies. They comprised the palace guards of the princes, the nobles (*boyars*) with their armed retainers, and sometimes foreign mercenaries. Most of the latter were recruited from other Ottoman territories (e.g. Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania) or from areas under Austrian control (Hungary), but Poles and Cossacks were also employed. The armies were almost entirely cavalry, and the few contingents of light infantry that existed had very limited tactical roles. Except for the personal retinues of the princes and boyars, all the cavalry were lightly equipped.

The 'large hosts', by contrast, consisted of all available able-bodied men, who could be called to serve only in cases of military emergency such as a foreign invasion. They were unpaid, untrained, and lacked proper military equipment.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Flaherty, Cristopher, 'The Ottoman Army in the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. II (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Friedrich, Wolfgang, *Die Uniformen der Kurfurstlich Sachsischen Armee 1683–1763* (Dresden, 1998)

Galster, Kjeld Hald, 'The Dano-Norwegian Army in the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium, V*ol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Hoglund, Lars-Eric & Ake Sallnas, *The Great Northern War 1700–1721: Colours and Uniforms*, Vol. I & Vol. II (Acedia Press, 2000 & 2006)

Hogman, Hans, www.hhogman.se/uniforms-army-sweden-1700s.htm

Kling, Steven, 'The Army of Holstein-Gottorp in the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Kling, Steven, 'Sweden's Cossack allies during the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Kling, Steven, 'The Emergence of the Russian Army', in *Great Northern War Compendium*, Vol. II (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Kling, Steven, 'The Electorate of Hanover and its Army during the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium, V*ol. II (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Konstam, Angus, *Peter the Great's Army (1): Infantry* and *(2): Cavalry*, MAAs 260 & 264 (Osprey, 1993)

Kuhn, August, *The Military Forces of the Duchies of Schlesswig-Holstein-Gottorp and the Military States of the Upper Saxon Circle* (Editions Brokaw, 1991)

Kuhn, August, *The Hanoverian Armies During the War of the Spanish Succession* (Editions Brokaw, 1991)

Kuhn, August, *Brandenburg-Prussia's Army under King Frederick I* (Robert Hall, 2001)

Martinnson, Orjan, 'The Swedish Army of the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Paradowski, Michal, 'The once glorious and powerful Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Army', in *Great Northern War Compendium, V*ol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Querengasser, Alexander, *Die Armee Augusts des Starken im Nordischen Krieg* (Berlin, 2013)

Querengasser, Alexander, 'The Saxon Army in the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. I (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Sapherson, C.A., *Forces of the Swedish Crown 1688–1721* (Raider Books, 1991)

Sapherson, C.A., *The Danish Army 1699–1715* (Partizan Press, 1997)

Schorr, Dan, *The Saxon Polish Army during the Great Northern War* (Editions Brokaw, 1987)

Schorr, D.A., *Notes on the Saxon Army 1700–1716* (web published, 2008)

Schorr, D.A., *Notes on the Norwegian Army 1700–1720* (web published, 2008)

Shamenkov, Sergey, 'Ukrainian Cossack forces in the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium,* Vol. II (THGC Publishing, 2015)

Summerfield, Stephen, 'The Prussian Army of the Great Northern War', in *Great Northern War Compendium, V*ol. II (THGC Publishing, 2015)

www.tacitus.nu/gnw/armies/denmark/infantry.htm

PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: RUSSIAN INFANTRY & DRAGOONS

Before the reforms of Peter the Great, most Russian military units still dressed in the traditional male clothing of their country. The regiments of Streltsi all wore simple fur caps, and a long coat with frontal frogging in distinctive unit colours. The two 'foreign regiments' created by Peter's father wore a green fur-trimmed cap with otherwise Westernized uniform: a collarless green coat with green turn-back cuffs, and red breeches tucked into white stockings. In 1699 the Preobrazhenskoe and Semyonovskoe Regts were given new uniforms, including black tricorne hats. The definitive Westernization of the Russian army's uniforms was a gradual process that continued until 1725.

A1: Fusilier, Semyonovskoe Regiment (2nd of the Imperial Guard), 1700

The Semyonovskoe Regiment had the same uniform as the senior Preobrazhenskoe Regt but with blue as the main colour instead of green. Note the Russian imperial eagle and Tsar Peter's monogram stamped on the large ammunition pouch. By contrast, the Preobrazhenskoe Regt (1st of the Imperial Guard) had the unique regimental distinction of gold-lace edging to the tricorne hat. Its green coat had a red 'falling' collar, cuffs and buttonhole loops, and red lining. It was worn over a long red waistcoat, and red breeches which could be tucked into green (winter) or white (summer) stockings. The green coat had horizontal 'dagged' pocket flaps, and a single red shoulder-strap was worn on the left to secure the wide crossbelt of the ammunition pouch.

A2: Grenadier of line infantry, 1710

The basic uniform of the Preobrazhenskoe Regt was adopted by the majority of the new line infantry regiments created by Peter. Since uniforms were ordered by individual colonels there were still variations; a few units wore red coats, and several had blue, white or yellow facings. Most line fusiliers had tricornes edged in white, but some regiments wore instead the *kartuz* cap (see A3) with contrasting coloured flaps, which might differ from the coat colours (e.g. the Butyrski's *kartuz* is listed as yellow with red flaps). Grenadiers were distinguished by this 'mitre' cap; a pointed cloth bag, with turn-up flaps at the front and rear. The colours might vary according to the regiment, but generally the bag was green and the flaps red, with white piping and a small gold tassel. The grenadiers of the two Guard regiments had a different headgear: a rounded black leather helmet (compare with B3), with a rear neck protector and a partly black-painted brass front plate bearing an imperial badge, decorated for parades with a forward-curling red-and-white ostrich feather. Note the belly pouch for grenades and fuses, and the corners of the coat tails buttoned together, exposing the waistcoat. The regiments of garrison infantry and Ukrainian Land Militia wore broadly

similar uniforms to the line, but with collarless coats usually of low-quality light-grey cloth.

A3: Dismounted dragoon, 1705

The dragoon uniform differed from that of the line infantry only in details, though again, a few regiments wore coats in blue, white or grey rather than green. As an alternative to the tricorne a number of regiments wore this *kartuz* in various colours, as was also popular in the infantry and artillery. For dismounted service, dragoons might wear buttoned gaiters over their stockings, and when mounted, high black leather boots as on Plate B.

B: RUSSIAN CAVALRY & ARTILLERY

Before Tsar Peter's reforms the Russian cavalry dressed in traditional national clothing. 'Noble' cavalrymen wore expensive civilian costume with mail-and-plate composite armours, while their retainers were dressed similarly to the Streltsi with long coats 'frogged' at the breast, and the Cossacks wore their own various regional dress.

B1: Trooper, Life Guard Cavalry Regiment, 1720

This elite mounted unit, formed in 1719, had an elaborate uniform that was strongly influenced by that of the French King's Musketeers. The gold-laced red surcoat had a white imperial eagle embroidered on the back. By contrast, the light cavalry created by Peter the Great were dressed in Hungarian hussar style: fur busby with red bag, green dolman jacket with black frogging, and red breeches with black Hungarian thigh-knots.

B2: Trooper, Smolenski Dragoon Regiment, 1710

Not all dragoon regiments were uniformed in green like A3; as in this example, several had white or dark-blue coats, with varying facing colours. All breeches and most waistcoats were brown, and many regiments wore a white-trimmed tricorne. The horse grenadiers, which were originally part of the dragoon regiments, were dressed much like their infantry equivalents.

B3: Bombardier, Artillery Regiment, 1715

The artillery wore a uniform of the same cut as the line infantry, but in red with blue as the facing and secondary colour. Most companies wore a white-edged tricorne or an all-red *kartuz* cap, but the elite bombardier company had this black leather helmet with a brass plate partly painted black, similar to that worn by grenadiers of the two Guard infantry regiments. They were armed with 'hand-mortars' – flintlock weapons projecting a spherical grenade, which were fired resting on this *bardiche* poleaxe, as previously used by the Streltsi.

C: SWEDISH INFANTRY

Swedish uniforms of the Great Northern War were austere but smart, in the national colours of the royal house: medium to dark blue, usually with yellow lining and facings – cuffs, buttonholes, and piping to pockets, and (later) collar, and shoulder-strap piping. A few regiments had different facing colours (e.g. red for the Närke-Värmlands and Jönköping regiments, and white for the Västerboten). Originally made of moose- or reindeer-hide more often than of cloth, the waistcoat and breeches were in facing colour; the outer pair of the doubled stockings (secured by garter straps) were usually facing-colour in winter and white in summer. The Guard infantry were distinguished by additional gold lace on the front, buttonholes and pockets of the coat.

This drawing of a grenadier officer of the Russian Preobrazhenskoe Guards Regiment shows some useful details. The basic uniform colours are as Plate A2, but with gold-lace decoration to the coat front, pocket flaps, buttonholes, and top edges of the red cuffs and buff gloves. The special black leather helmet, with a red-and-white ostrich plume, has the background of its brass front plate painted black to show up the crowned double-headed eagle badge. The officer displays a gilt gorget over his white neck cloth, a red-and-white tasselled sash, and gold-lace edging to his buff belts.

C1: Fusilier of line infantry, *c.* 1706

The 1687 regulations prescribed the general adoption of blue coats with shoulder straps, and those of 1699 a small collar; the exact shade of blue varied. Initially the coat had these two vertical three-button pockets each side, and buttons all the way down the front. The headgear was originally a black broad-brimmed slouch hat, which was gradually 'cocked' up into a tricorne, and later acquired white edge-trim. The 1706 regulations added a larger 'falling' collar and pleated rear skirts, and discontinued the front buttons below the belly. From about this date piping began to appear on shoulder straps. Since each of these features took some years to

become universal, we have chosen to show this figure displaying a mixture of them.

C2: Grenadier, Pommerska Infantry Regiment, *c.* 1710

From about 1706 the double vertical coat pockets gradually changed to a single large 'squared' horizontal flap, and it became usual to see the coat skirts buttoned open to free the legs for marching. The grenadiers of the line were distinguished from the fusiliers by their headgear, which varied from regiment to regiment. Some wore a cloth mitre cap, perhaps trimmed with fur like the one illustrated, bearing on the front flap the royal monogram of crowned, opposed 'Cs'. Others had a tall brass frontal plate; still others were made of bearskin, with a smaller brass plate. The design of the royal emblem also varied, but generally included this monogram of Charles XII and/or the Swedish royal arms. Note the monogram repeated here on the large second pouch for grenades. Swedish grenadiers were generally issued with musket-mounted brass discharger cups, as here.

Dismounted Russian dragoon wearing the *kartuz* cap. Some units wore this not only as fatigue headgear but actually instead of the tricorne, and colours could vary from those of the regimental coat and facings – for instance, the Belozerski Dragoons are listed as wearing a green coat faced red, but an all-blue *kartuz*. Originally dragoons were issued a slightly shortened infantry musket, but from about 1708 shorter Russian-made carbines began to appear.

C3: Fusilier of line infantry, winter

Swedish infantry often used a blue fatigue cap (*karpus*) with facing-colour turn-up flaps front and rear. During bad weather they also wore over their uniform and equipment large blue cloaks lined and collared with facing colour, with a double fastening at the neck, and buff leather gloves.

D: SWEDISH CAVALRY & ARTILLERY

The Swedish cavalry wore uniform headgear and coats similar to those of the infantry. In the late 17th century they had worn sleeved, knee-length, heavy buff leather coats and breeches, but with few exceptions by 1700 almost all regiments wore blue coats over a lighter leather version called a *kamisol*; regimental facing colours varied, but again, yellow was the most common. There was no significant difference between the uniforms of heavy cavalry and dragoons, apart from the fact that at the beginning of the war some of the former were still wearing steel cuirasses (later abandoned).

D1: Trooper, Horse Drabants, *c.* 1706

The young officers who made up the personal mounted bodyguard of Charles XII wore this more decorative uniform with additional gold lace on the tricorne, and the edges, collar, cuffs, pocket flaps and buttonholes of the coat – an unusual departure from the normal austerity of Swedish fashions. The buff leather *kamisol* and gauntlets were also edged with gold. The dragoon-style crossbelts and waistbelt were faced with gold lace showing narrow blue lines. Although it too was an elite Guard unit, the *Livregementet* did not display such embellishments, and was uniformed like line cavalry.

D2: Trooper, Sodra Skansa Cavalry Regiment, 1710

This was the simple dress worn by nearly all the Swedish cavalry units, though here with the coat faced, piped and lined with a bright-blue regimental colour. The buff leather breeches, gloves and belt equipment, and the high black leather boots, were common to all mounted units.

D3: Gunner, Artillery Regiment, 1715

The artilleryman's simple coat is cut like that of the infantry, but in grey with blue facing colour. Concealed here, the waistcoat and breeches were yellow, while outer stockings were blue during winter or white in summer. Again, the tricorne has white edging, and the belt equipment is buff.

E: SAXON & POLISH-LITHUANIAN ARMIES

The Saxon army of the Great Northern War was mostly dressed in red, with distinct uniforms for each of its units. Those of Poland-Lithuania had not yet adopted uniforms on a regular basis. The 'national' contingents of both Poland and Lithuania still wore their traditional dress. While the issue of standardized uniforms to the 'foreign' troops (especially 'German' infantry) had commenced, the civil wars which ravaged the Commonwealth delayed the process for some years. From 1717, however, Augustus II of Saxony completely reorganized the Polish-Lithuanian armies and introduced modern uniforms for all units.

E1: Guardsman, Saxon Janissary Corps, 1700
Perhaps the most exotic of the Saxon king's household troops was this company aping the Ottoman janissaries which Augustus the Strong had encountered a few years earlier. The headgear is an obvious copy of the Ottoman style, while the European coat is in the green and yellow that formed part of the Saxon national colours.

E2: Saxon horse grenadier, Saschen-Weissenfels Dragoon Regiment, 1716
Most Saxon cavalry units wore this same uniform, but with a black tricorne edged in white instead of the mitre worn only by the horse grenadiers within dragoon regiments. On the stiff front the mitre displays the coat-of-arms of Saxony embroidered in gold, while the rear flap, piping and tassel are in the green regimental facing colour. This is also seen on the cuffs, piping and lining of the collarless red coat, and on the shabraque and holster covers. The waistcoat is red, the breeches buff, and belt equipment (sword belt at waist, pouch belt to left hip, musket belt to right hip) buff leather. Heavy cavalry regiments differed in wearing black metal cuirasses.

The Saxon line infantry had a black broad-brimmed hat with white edging, later 'cocked' into a tricorne; a collarless red coat with lining and cuffs in regimental colours; buff-coloured breeches; and stockings in regimental colours (winter) or white (summer). Grenadiers wore a red mitre cap with rear flap, piping and tassel in regimental colours, as E2. The artillery wore a grey coat with red lining, collar and cuffs, and red breeches and stockings. The militia looked very similar, also wearing grey coats with red facings.

E3: Lancer, Polish light cavalry, 1700
The Polish-Lithuanian light cavalry were dressed in their traditional costume. The heavy 'winged hussars' wore full cuirasses and other elements of plate armour, and the medium *pancerni* usually a simple ringmail shirt.

F: DANISH-NORWEGIAN ARMY

From 1691 almost the whole Danish army was dressed in light grey, a colour that was easy and cheap to produce; in October 1711 the colour of all uniforms was ordered changed to red , although this took at least two years to become general. Before 1711 the infantry uniform was a collarless coat with two close-set rows of front buttons linked by piping; this, the cuffs, breeches and stockings were in distinctive regimental colours. A black tricorne with white or yellow (button-colour?) edging might be replaced with a *kartuz*-type fatigue cap, in light grey with flaps in the regimental colour. From 1711 the line infantry adopted a red coat with cuffs, frontal piping, lining and in certain cases a 'falling' collar in regimental colours; the smallclothes were sometimes in the same colour, sometimes all red. Both before and after 1711 the uniforms of the Norwegian infantry were similar to those of the Danish, including the use by some regiments of red coats before 1711.

F1: Grenadier, Danish Grenadier Regiment, 1703
Before the general introduction of red following an order of October 1711, this uniform colour was already used to distinguish two elite infantry units – the Grenadier Regt and the Queen's Regt, the former being created by assembling all the grenadiers from the line infantry regiments. An engraving of 1707 depicting a funeral procession in 1703 shows this uniform, with the embroidered monogram of Frederick IV on the mitre and pouch. Despite not having Guard status, this regiment displayed additional white 'loops' and cuff-edging on its single-breasted coat, and edging on the blue-faced belt equipment.

F2: Courier, Norwegian Skiløpere Company, 1712
The elite Norwegian ski troops had a distinctive medium-blue coat with white cuffs; a blue visored cap with white flaps; special buff leather gaiters, and fur-lined gloves. All belt equipment was buff leather, and they usually additionally carried a hatchet for use in dense forest. It is probable that the elite *Fyrrører* company also created in 1711 wore the same uniform.

F3: Trooper, Danish 2nd Jutland Cavalry Regiment, 1700
Apart from the black metal cuirass, this off-white uniform was worn by most Danish and Norwegian cavalry, both heavy units and dragoons, before 1711. Exceptions were the Life Guards of Horse, the Horse Guards, and two regiments of dragoons, all of which had red coats before that date.

The Danish artillery wore a medium-blue coat, and the Norwegian artillery an off-white coat, in both cases with red cuffs, breeches and stockings.

G: GERMAN ARMIES

G1: Prussian grenadier, Leib-Garde Regiment, 1708
Until 1713 Prussian infantry regiments wore very diverse uniforms, each unit having its own distinguishing features. The basic line uniform was a black tricorne with white edging (or a mitre for grenadiers); a collarless dark-blue coat, with so-called 'Swedish' cuffs and lining in regimental

Prussian grenadier of the Alt-Dohna Regiment, pre-1713. Colours: mitre with red front scalloped as on Plate G1, red rear flap, blue bag; entirely dark-blue coat with red lining, worn over dark-blue waistcoat; buff-coloured breeches, red stockings; buff leather belts.

colour; a waistcoat in regimental colour; breeches of various colours, and red stockings. This figure illustrates the Leib-Garde's uniform from 1708. The distinctive open-collared 'greatcoat' was unchanged, but the previously red bag of the mitre cap was changed to yellow, and the 'FR' monogram of King Frederick I on its front and on the ammunition pouch was greatly simplified. From 1713, the infantry uniform changed to a collarless dark-blue coat with so-called 'Brandenburg' cuffs in regimental colour (much smaller, and with an additional vertical buttoned flap protruding above), red waistcoat and breeches, and white gaiters. Naturally, under war conditions it took some years for this order to take general effect, and the older uniform was still seen during Prussia's participation in the Great Northern War.

The cuirassier regiments had black tricornes edged in white; collarless white coats with lining and cuffs in facing colour; and waistcoat and breeches in buff leather or facing colour. The dragoon regiments had the same except for facing-colour waistcoats and buff leather breeches. The artillery had yellow edging to the tricornes; entirely dark-blue collarless coats; buff-coloured waistcoat and breeches, and red or white stockings.

G2: Hanoverian trooper, Goden Cavalry Regiment, 1710

At the beginning of the Great Northern War the small armies of the two constituent duchies wore very similar uniforms, which simplified their amalgamation in 1705. The heavy cavalry wore this white collarless coat, lined and faced with regimental colours (here, green), but the two regiments with Guard status wore red. Several mounted units had a white hat instead of black. In 1700 the Hanoverian infantry was almost entirely dressed in white, but as the war progressed this was increasingly replaced with red. The basic infantry uniform of 1710 was a black tricorne; a collarless red coat with lining and cuffs in regimental colour; a waistcoat in regimental colour; buff-coloured breeches, and white gaiters.

G3: Holstein fusilier, Barner Infantry Regiment, 1700

In this case the red Holstein infantry coat has dark-blue regimental facings and lining. The two Swedish units of the Holstein infantry wore dark-blue uniforms of Swedish cut, but faced with red instead of yellow. The Horse Guards dragoon regiment was distinguished by a bearskin cap, a collarless dark-blue coat with red cuffs and white buttonholes, buff leather breeches and high black boots. The other cavalry units wore the same apart from black tricornes without edging, and coat cuffs and lining in regimental colours. The Holstein artillery were dressed similarly to their Swedish counterparts (see D3), but had grey cuffs and stockings, and buff-coloured waistcoats and breeches.

H: TATARS, DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES & COSSACKS

H1: Tatar heavy cavalryman, 1712

The majority of the archaic cavalry forces of the Crimean Khanate were lightly equipped horse archers, but a minority of Tatar noblemen provided extra impact in a small corps of heavy armoured riders, protected by typical oriental combinations of scale, ringmail and plate. Weaponry included lances, sabres and also composite bows, which were traditionally prestigious.

H2: Moldavian light cavalryman, 1712

While the elite palace guards and *boyars* of Moldavia and Wallachia probably appeared very much like H1, this figure is typical of the light cavalry who made up the bulk of the armies of the Danubian principalities. Dressed in a soft cap trimmed with fur, a wrap-over *kaftan* coat, and soft leather riding boots, he too carries a mixture of weapons – a bow for fighting at a distance, a counterbalanced lance for man-to-man impact, and almost certainly a sabre at his left hip for use in the mêlée.

Prussian artilleryman in the 1690s; except for a tricorne with yellow edging in place of the broad-brimmed hat, this uniform was still being worn during the Great Northern War. The entirely dark-blue collarless coat was worn over a buff-coloured waistcoat and breeches, with red or white stockings depending upon the season. He carries a slung flask for priming powder, and holds a combination partizan/ linstock with double 'jaws' to hold both smouldering ends of a length of slowmatch.

H3: Ukrainian Cossack of a 'mercenary' infantry regiment, 1710

The basic dress of the Ukrainian Cossacks comprised a soft cap (of various shapes) trimmed with fur; a knee-length coat with a minimal collar and tape 'frogging' on the breast, sometimes worn over a padded garment; baggy breeches; and soft leather boots. Members of 'town' regiments had no uniforms to speak of, since each man had to provide his own clothing. However, the 'mercenary' regiments received theirs from the central government of the Hetmanate, and thus had a semi-uniform appearance: a cap in regimental colour, and the white *sermyagi* coat which was a distinctive feature of such units. The presence of a matchlock in addition to his sabre and hatchet also identifies this Cossack as a member of a *serdiutski polk*.

INDEX

Note: page numbers in bold refer to illustrations, captions (in brackets) and plates.

alliances and coalitions against Sweden 4–5
allotment system, the 15–16, 18
Apraksin, Adm Fyodor **8**
army funding 15
army structures 11–14, 16–18, 19, 20–34, 35–37, 39–40
Augustus II 'the Strong,' King (Saxony) 5, **7**, 11, 19, **20**, 21, 22, 23, 33, **42**, **45–46**

Bruce, James William 14
'Bulavin Rebellion,' the **7**, 13

Cape Hangöudd, battle of **8**
Charles XI, King (Sweden) 15
Charles XII, King (Sweden) **2**, **3**, 4, 5, **7**, **8**, 14, **15**, 16, 17, 18, 19, 40, **45**
chronology of the Great Northern War, the **6–8**
conscription 15–16, 21, 35
'Cossack Hetmanate,' the 5, 12
Crimean Tatar Khanate, the 41–42

Danish Army **F(30)**, 33–34, **46**
  cavalry and dragoons 34–35
  hvervede infantry 34
    Foot Guards 34
    Grenadier Rgt **F(30)**, 34, 36, **46**
Danish infantrymen **23**
Delaroche, Paul **4**
Don Cossacks, the 13, **H(32)**
dragoons **9**, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, **A(25)**, **B(26)**, 33, **34**, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, **44**, **45**, **46**, **47**
Duchy of Hanover, the 5, 37
Duchy of Holstein-Gottorp, the 5, **7**, 33, 40
Duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrucken, the 17

Erastfer, battle of **7**
exotic guard units 22–23

'field craftsman' **19**
flintlocks **11**
Fraustadt, battle of **7**
Frederick I, Hohenzollern, King 5, 38, **38**, 39, **47**
Frederick I, King (Sweden) **8**
Frederick IV, King (Denmark) 4, **7**, **46**
Frederick William I, King (Prussia) 5
Fredriksten, siege of **8**
fusilier and NCO of Finnish regiment **18**

George I, King (Great Britain) 5
Gernäuerthof, battle of **7**
Gordon, Patrick 10
grenadiers **9**, **C(27)**, **F(30)**, **G(31)**, 34, **35**, **36**, **37**, **43**, **45**, **46–47**
Gustavus Adolphus, King (Sweden) 15

Hanoverian army, the **G(31)**, 37–38
Hanoverian trooper **G(31)**, **47**
heavy cavalryman **19**, **H(32)**, 33, **47**
Helsingborg, battle of **8**
Holowczyn, battle of **7**
Holstein army, the **G(31)**, 40–41
Holstein fusilier **G(31)**, **47**

Ivan the Terrible 9

Jakobstadt, battle of **7**

kartuz cap **11**, **14**, **43**, **44**, **45**, **46**
Kliszow, battle of 7
Knötel, Richard **9**, **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, **42**

lancers **E(29)**, **46**
Land Militia, Denmark 34
Lefort, Francis 10
Leszczynski, Stanislaw **7**, 19, 33
Lewenhaupt, Adam **7**
Lunenberg-Celle artillery gunners **24**

Mazepa, Ivan 5
Menshikov, Gen Alexander **7**
mercenary regiments **H(32)**, 33, 41, 42, **47**
Moldavian light cavalryman **H(32)**, **47**
mounted dragoon **9**

Narva campaign **7**, 12, **15**
Norwegian army, the 35–37
  Fyrrører scout company 36, **46**
  infantry 36
  Skiløpere (ski troops) company **F(30)**, **46**

Ottoman Empire, the 5
Ottoman janissaries **42**

Peace of Altranstadt, the **7**
Peace of Travendal, the **7**, 40
Peter the Great, Tsar 3, **4**, **7**, 8, **8**, 9, 10, 11, **11**, 12, 13, **20**, **43**
Poland-Lithuania army, the 23–33, **E(29)**, **46**
  'national' and 'foreign' contingents 23–24
  private armies 33
Poland-Lithuania commonwealth, the 5, 23
Poltava, battle of **2**, **7**, 9, 17
Poltava, siege of **7**
Principality of Moldavia 41, 42
Principality of Wallachia 41, 42
Prussian army, the **G(31)**, **34**, **35**, **37**, **38**, 38–39, **47**
  Garde du Corps **34**, 38, 39
  King's Rgt
    3rd Bn 'Potsdam Giants' **37**, **38**, 39
  Leib-Garde Rgt **G(31)**, **35**, 39–40, **46–47**
  Weisse Grenadier-Garde Rgt 38–39
Prussian grenadier **G(31)**, **35**, **36**, **37**, **46–47**
Prussian heavy cavalry **39**, **40**

Rantzau, Gen Jørgen **8**
Riga, siege of **7**
rotars 16, 17
Russian Army, the 8–14, **10**, **11**
  1st Moscovski Rgt 10, 11
  artillery **13**, 14, **14**
  Artillery Rgt **13**, **14**, **B(26)**, **44**
  Astrakhanski Dragoons **12**
  Butyrski Rgt 10, 11
  dragoon regiments **12**, 12–13, **13**, **A(25)**
  Life Guard Cavalry Rgt **13**, **B(26)**, **44**
  light cavalry 13–14
  Preobrazhenskoe Guard Rgt 10, **10**, 11, 14, **43**, **44**
  Semyonovskoe Rgt 10, 14, **A(25)**, **43**
  Smolenski Dragoon Rgt **11**, **12**, **B(26)**, **44**
  Streltsi (infantry regiments), the 9–10, **43**
  Ukrainian Land Militia 12, **43–44**
Russian dismounted dragoons **9**, **A(25)**, **44**, **45**
Russian elite bombardier **13**, **B(26)**, **44**
Russian line infantry fusilier **11**, **A(25)**, **43**
Russian military alliances 4
Russian trooper **11**, **13**, **B(26)**, **44**
rusthallare (farm/estate) 18

Saxon Army, the 20–23
  cavalry 21–22
    Garde du Corps Rgt 21, 22
  Chevalier Guard 23
  infantry 21, **21**
    Janissary Corps **E(29)**, **46**
  militia 22
Saxon horse grenadier **E(29)**, **46**
Saxon infantryman **21**
Sobieski, John III **20**, 23, 24, 33, **42**
Stenbock, Gen Magnus **8**
Stretski revolt, the 9–10
Swedish Army, the 14–18
  artillery
    Royal Artillery Rgt 19, **D(28)**, **45**
  and Horse Guard cavalry 17–18
    Horse Drabants 17–18, **D(28)**
    Life Regiment 17, 18
  indelta regiments 17, 18
  Jamtland Regiment of Dragoons 17
  Life Guard on Foot 16, 18
  line cavalry 18–19
    Enspannar Company 19
  militia 20
  'noble flag' units 18–19
  Pommerska Infantry Rgt **C(27)**, **45**
  'priest dragoon' units 19
  tremanning regiments 16
  varvade regiments 17, 18
Swedish fusilier **17**, **C(27)**, **44–45**
Swedish infantry officer **16**
Swedish power in 1700 3–4
Swedish trooper **D(28)**, **45**

Tatar heavy cavalryman **H(32)**, 33, **47**
Thirty Years' War, the (1618–48) 3
Treaty of Copenhagen, the **7**
Treaty of Greifswald, the **8**
Treaty of Hanover, the **8**
Treaty of Nystad, the **8**
Treaty of Preobrazhenskoe, the **7**
Treaty of Thorn, the **7**

Ukrainian Cossack **H(32)**, **41**, **47**
Ukrainian Cossack Hetmanate, the 41
uniforms and dress **2**, **3**, **9**, **10**, **11**, **12**, **13**, **14**, **15**, **16**, **17**, **18**, **19**, **21**, **22**, **23**, **24**, **A(25)**, **B(26)**, **C(27)**, **D(28)**, **E(29)**, **F(30)**, **G(31)**, **H(32)**, **34**, **35**, **36**, **37**, **39**, **40**, **41**, **43–47**

War of the Spanish Succession (1701–14) 3

OSPREY PUBLISHING
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
PO Box 883, Oxford, OX1 9PL, UK
1385 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA
E-mail: info@ospreypublishing.com
www.ospreypublishing.com

OSPREY is a trademark of Osprey Publishing Ltd

First published in Great Britain in 2019

© Osprey Publishing Ltd, 2019

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior written permission from the publishers.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: PB 9781472833495; eBook 9781472833679; ePDF 9781472833662; XML 9781472833655

Editor: Martin Windrow
Map by the S. Bollmann and the author
Index by Fionbar Lyons
Typeset by PDQ Digital Media Solutions, Bungay, UK

Osprey Publishing supports the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

To find out more about our authors and books, visit **www.ospreypublishing.com**. Here you will find extracts, author interviews, details of forthcoming events, and the option to sign up for our newsletter.

Dedication

To my parents, Maria Rosaria and Benedetto.

Author's acknowledgements

The author particularly wishes to record his debt to the published researches of the following scholars, collected in the two volumes of the *Great Northern War Compendium* by THGC Publishing, 2015 (see Select Bibliography): Christopher Flaherty, Kjell Hald Galster, Steven Kling, Orjan Martinnson, Michal Paradowski, Alexander Querengasser, Sergey Shamentov and Stephen Summerfield. Thanks are also due to the series editor Martin Windrow, for his valuable contributions; and to Giuseppe Rava, for his spirited colour plates.

Most of the illustrations published in this book, including many that readers will recognize as the work of Richard Knötel, are obtained from the Digital Collections of the New York Public Library; the original files are available at: https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/

Artist's note

Readers may care to note that the original paintings from which the colour plates in this book were prepared are available for private sale. All reproduction copyright whatsoever is retained by the publisher. All enquiries should be addressed to:

Giuseppe Rava, via Borgotto 17, 48018 Faenza (RA), Italy

The publishers regret that they can enter into no correspondence upon this matter.

Page 3
Charles XII of Sweden (1682–1718); this portrait by an unknown artist, in the collection of the Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, shows him wearing a plain blue uniform coat over a long buff leather cavalry *kamisol*. (Some Swedish senior-officer portraits show a blackened cuirass worn between these two garments.) Succeeding to the throne in 1697, Charles was thus only 18 years old at the outbreak of war in 1700, but despite his youth he was ascetic in his personal habits, tough, fearless and careless of pain. As a military commander he was energetic and aggressive, and by 1702 he had acquired great tactical skill while serving alongside generals inherited from his father. With them, and usually facing far superior numbers, he inflicted stunning defeats on Sweden's enemies at Narva (1700), Kliszów (1702), Jakobstadt (1704), Fraustadt (1706), Holowczyn (1708) and Gadebusch (1712). However, his march deep into Ukraine in 1708 was ill-advised, and it is argued that after the disaster at Poltava in 1709 he might have extricated Sweden from the war at much lower cost had he been less obdurate in refusing to negotiate. (Fine Art Images/ Heritage Images/Getty Images)